

Philip Levine

STABS IN THE BACK BY VICKY

of the NEWS CHRONICLE

Introduction by R. J. CRUIKSHANK

LONDON
MAX REINHARDT

First Published, 1952

My thanks are due to the Editor and the Proprietors of the News Chronicle for permission to reproduce these cartoons. The selection covers the period from the General Election in 1945 to the early days of the Conservative Government in 1952.

May I add that any resemblance of the characters portrayed to any politicians is purely intentional.

VICKY.

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INTRODUCTION

TURNER, when he was asked to explain the art of painting, said simply, "It's a rum business."

The art of cartooning would seem to be an even rummer business. We are never in danger of running short of painters. But first-class cartoonists! — they are beyond rubies in any generation.

The cartoonist is, in his way, as rare a wonder of Nature as the duck-billed platypus. As with that strange creature, the marvel is that he exists at all. I don't know what recommendations the Eugenics Society would make for breeding a cartoonist. Consider what requirements the fellow must fulfil. *Imprimis*, he must be a good draughtsman, with a bold, telling line. He should have as sharp a political sense as the shrewdest of editors. He must have the salt of the great satirists in his blood, from Swift to Shaw. He must have humour as well as wit in his make-up, for while wit may sparkle well enough in a caption, the warmth of humour is needed in a drawing. He must be prepared to seize the flying moment, for he loses half his force if he is not topical. But the unique power of the good cartoonist lies in the spirit of mad fantasy that he shares with children. It is through a wild dissociation of ideas that the cartoonist very often produces not only his comic effects but his piercing illuminations of truth.

My friend Vicky meets all the requirements of that fabulous character, the cartoonist. But, there is that something extra in him which, for me, adds a new turn to the eternal miracle of cartooning. Vicky was born in Berlin of Hungarian parents. He was soaked in Middle European politics, and attached to that tradition of cartooning which is the farthest removed from Bernard Partridge, Raven Hill, John Tenniell, Carruthers Gould, Harry Furniss

and other old gods of the British. Vicky was a spirited anti-Nazi cartoonist. This meant that when Hitler came to power there were but two prospects before him — to leave Germany or be liquidated. Vicky came to London in the early 'thirties, without a penny, hunting desperately for a job to keep him alive, bewildered by our language and our customs, and driven to the edge of suicide by our weather. In that black hour he decided that he would become the cartoonist of a London daily paper. To everyone but himself that must have appeared a pure piece of fantasy. He was in no doubt of the obstacles between him and his goal. He knew that the idiom of British cartooning was utterly different from that of the Continental satiric artists, that he was venturing into a mysterious realm in which the Lion frolicked around in a little cricket cap, and in which the dismissal of a Minister could only be depicted as the dropping of a pilot. (How many pilots have we newspaper readers seen dropped in the past fifty years!)

The cartoonist and his public share between them certain assumptions. These include not only a rough-and-ready knowledge of current politics but of the popular songs of recent decades and the catch phrases of the streets. They have a common interest in the national sports and a common acquaintance with the leading figures of the Christmas pantomimes. There are a number of figures from nursery rhymes and a few characters from Dickens who can always be sure of recognition. When Vicky arrived in London, as remote from this tradition as a man from Mars, he did a very wise thing. He didn't plunge into Macaulay or Trevelyan, he didn't take up Dicey or Erskine May, he didn't thumb through the Fabian pamphlets, but he sat down to a serious study of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Mother Goose*. He felt that the keys of the mystery to the British national character are to be found in these classics. He extended his research into the soul of Britain by taking up the works of those great writers Wisden and Ruff. Vicky rode to his conquest of Fleet Street on the back of the Mock Turtle, and if

ever they make a peer of him the Walrus and the Carpenter will provide the appropriate supporters on his armorial bearings.

The Channel that divides the tradition of Daumier from the tradition of John Leach is far wider than twenty miles, and I think that Vicky is the only artist who has ever successfully swum it. He was well under thirty when he achieved his apparently hopeless ambition and became the political cartoonist of the News Chronicle. He owed much to the sympathetic guidance of Sir Gerald Barry, his first editor. But to acknowledge this is not to diminish from his own extraordinary gifts of transference and assimilation. He found his way through the tangled labyrinth of British politics without faltering, following that infallible guide Little Bo Peep. This book, which is a pictorial record of the years since the war, gives an admirable idea of Vicky's uncanny understanding of our home politics. It deals with the period of the Labour Government and of Mr. Churchill's return to power.

Just as a good parody should be something much more than a burlesque of a writer, so a good cartoon should do something much more for a politician than turn him into a figure of fun. Vicky's Attlee, for example, is never just the dormouse at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in danger of being popped in the teapot. The cartoonist, even in his most irreverent mood, somehow contrives to suggest that assured dignity and authority which has enabled Mr. Attlee to dominate a party that contains more than the average number of prima donnas. Vicky's Herbert Morrison, again, is not merely a perambulating quiff. The cockatoo plume of hair is certainly there in all its provocativeness, but the artist gives us the shrewdness of Morrison, the watching, waiting quality of the man who, despite setbacks, is still the best chess player in politics. It is said that politicians grow increasingly to resemble their cartoons. If that is so then Dr. Hugh Dalton should be more grateful to Vicky than almost any other politician of our age. For once upon a time in the curious folk lore of British cartooning, it was the fashion

to draw Dalton as one of the wicked uncles in *The Babes in the Wood*, a sinister figure with a Guy Fawkes hat and an all-enveloping cloak. Fifteen years of Vicky have transformed Dr. Dalton into the jolliest figure that ever graced a nursery rhyme. He is all "Nods and becks and wreathed smiles." When he is Humpty Dumpty he shakes himself off the wall out of sheer hilarity. As Little Jack Horner he sticks his thumb into every pie out of laughing benevolence. Vicky provides the assurance that when historians in years to come turn over the dusty files of the *News Chronicle* they will be convinced Hugh Dalton was the universal uncle of our times, the *Pickwick* of our politics.

Vicky seems to see Aneurin Bevan in a light that is different from his other main characters. His Bevan appears a more symbolic and a less personal figure than his Attlees, Churchills and Daltons. The figure has the air of being carved out of stone. One can imagine Vicky finding it on a desert island and wondering what strange god it typified. The artist seems to be saying that for good or evil Bevan is a monolithic figure that stands outside the main stream of our political life.

I have said that Vicky has completely absorbed the British tradition of caricature. He has a measureless regard for Hogarth as the father of the modern political cartoon, and the warmest of feelings for Gillray and Cruikshank. But I suspect there are moments when he allows himself the relief of cantering in a foreign field. His drawings of General de Gaulle, for instance, show a wealth of unrestrained fantasy. He sees the General in a hundred images, giraffe, ostrich, the central pole of a roundabout, the strangest of birds and animals and towers and trees. No matter how wild the fantastification, the likeness is never lost. The great day will come when Vicky will absorb de Gaulle into *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and then we shall know that his fancy will never stray again.

R. J. CRUIKSHANK.



ALL GOD'S CHILLUN GOT RIGHT WINGS

16th March, 1945. Mr. Churchill in a speech said: "You hear all this talk by the stay-at-home Left Wing intelligentsia that the soldiers will hold us guilty if we do not have a new world waiting for them . . ." This is the first indication of the break-up of the war time Coalition Government.

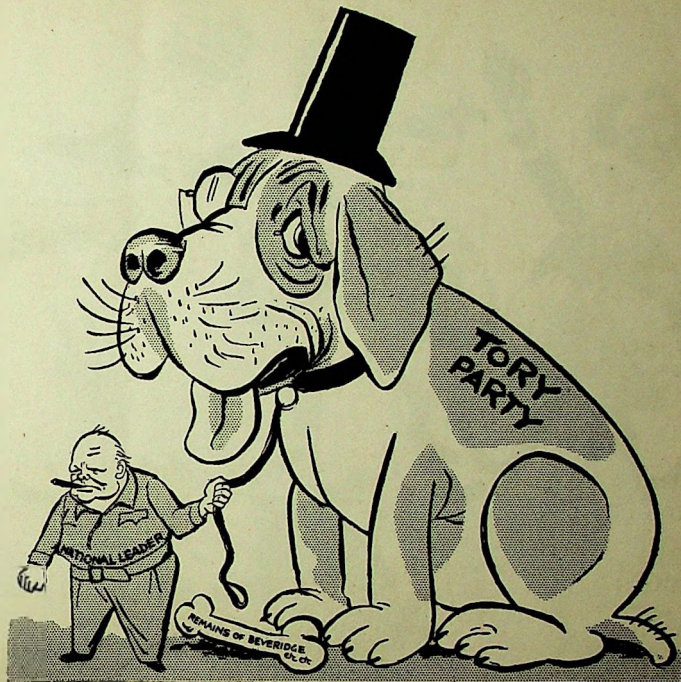
**PREPARING FOR
"E-DAY."**

15th May, 1945. The
General Election campaign
has started.



LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

23rd May, 1945. Mr. Churchill appears to the people not as the "National Leader" but as the leader of the Conservative Party.



VICK-Y



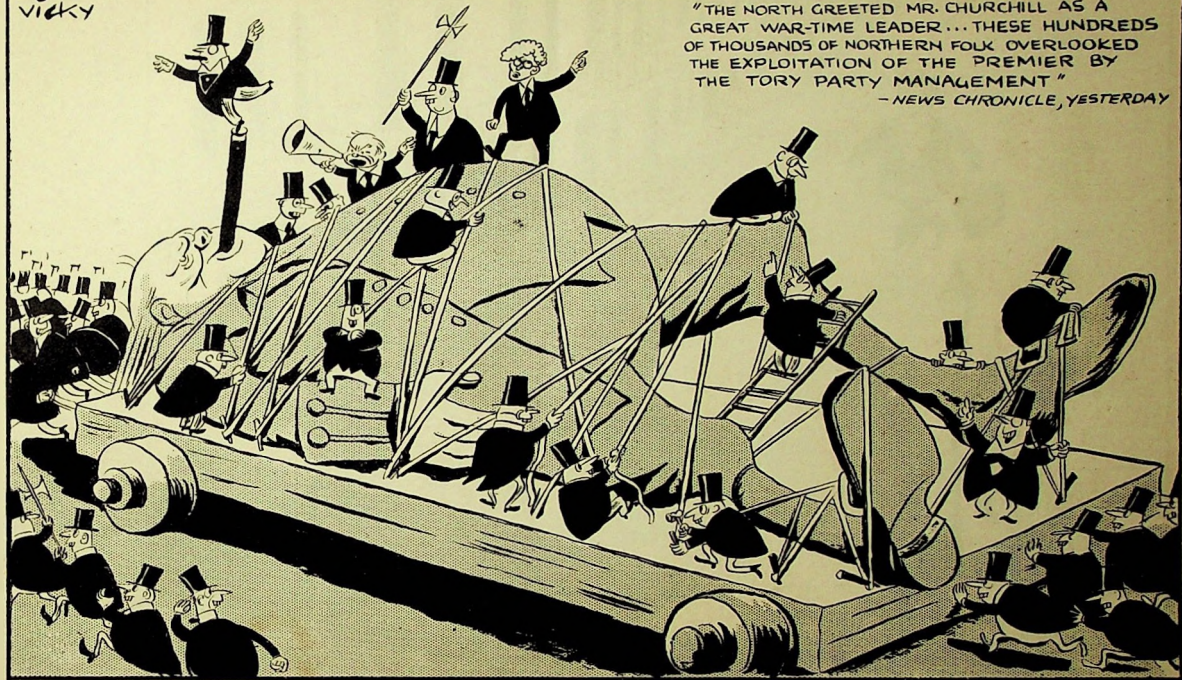
BOW-WOW !

6th June, 1945. The now famous " Gestapo - Broadcast " proves a fatal mistake.

Vicky

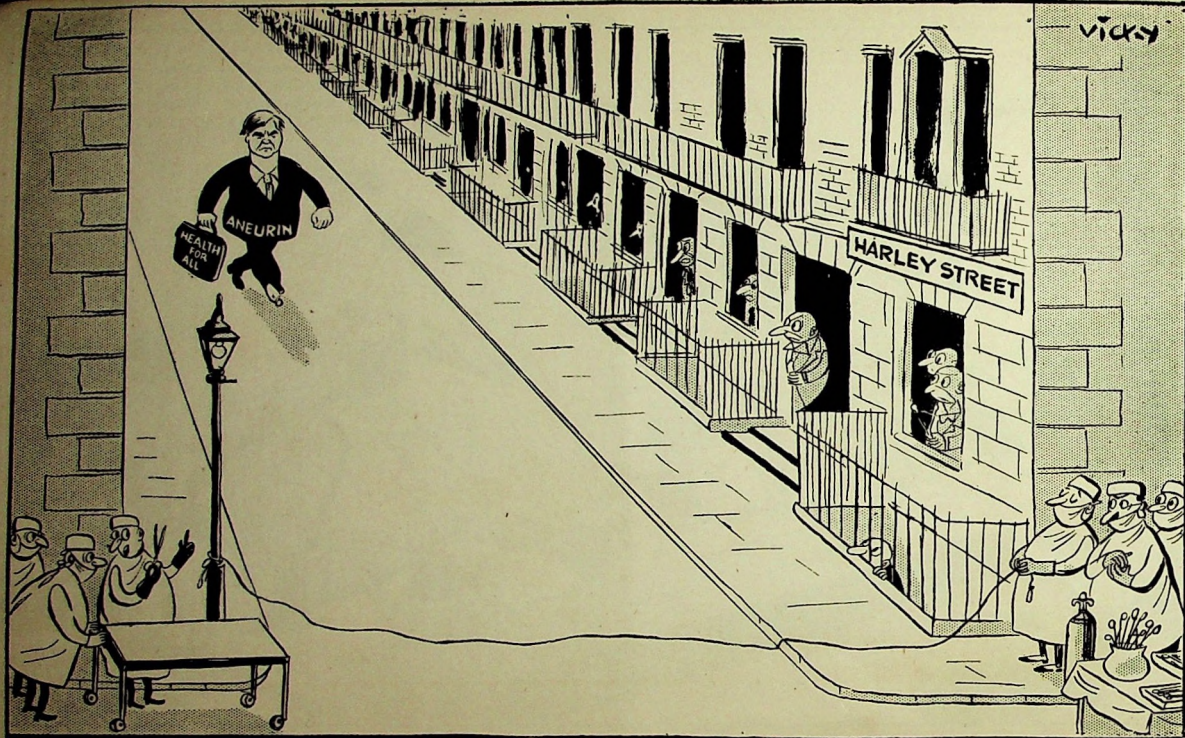
"THE NORTH GREETED MR. CHURCHILL AS A GREAT WAR-TIME LEADER... THESE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NORTHERN FOLK OVERLOOKED THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PREMIER BY THE TORY PARTY MANAGEMENT"

- NEWS CHRONICLE, YESTERDAY



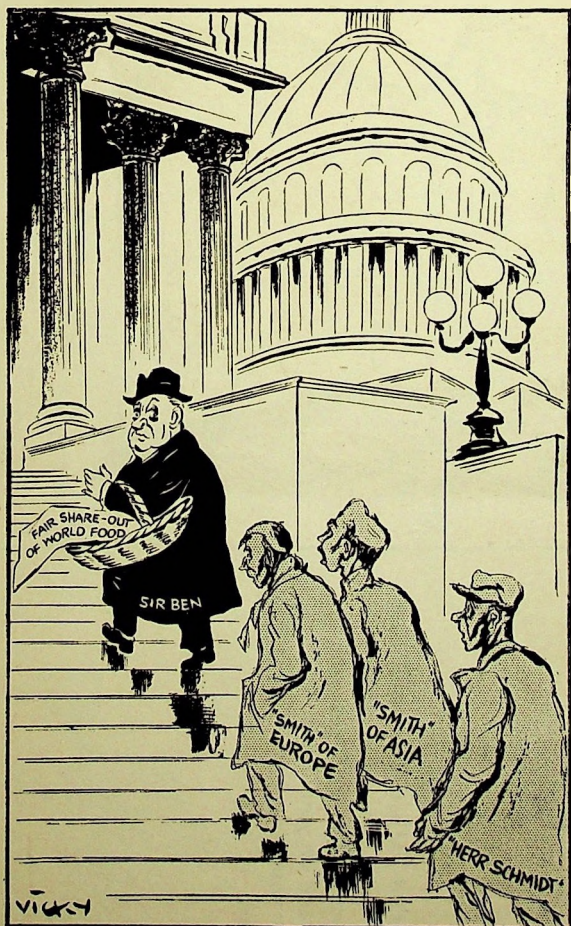
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

28th June, 1945. The people acclaim the "War Time Leader" on his tour through Britain, only to vote against him at the polls.



HERE HE COMES, BOYS !

7th August, 1945. Mr. Aneurin Bevan's appointment as Minister of Health Is not welcome in certain circles.



" MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON "

11th March, 1946. Food Minister Sir Ben Smith goes to the U.S. to discuss a fair share-out of the world's food supplies.

"You are Old Father Winston," the young man said, "and your hair has become very white: and yet you incessantly stand on your head — do you think, at your age, it is right?"

28th May, 1946. Mr. Churchill in opposition.



Seen by Vicky More Fashions from Paris



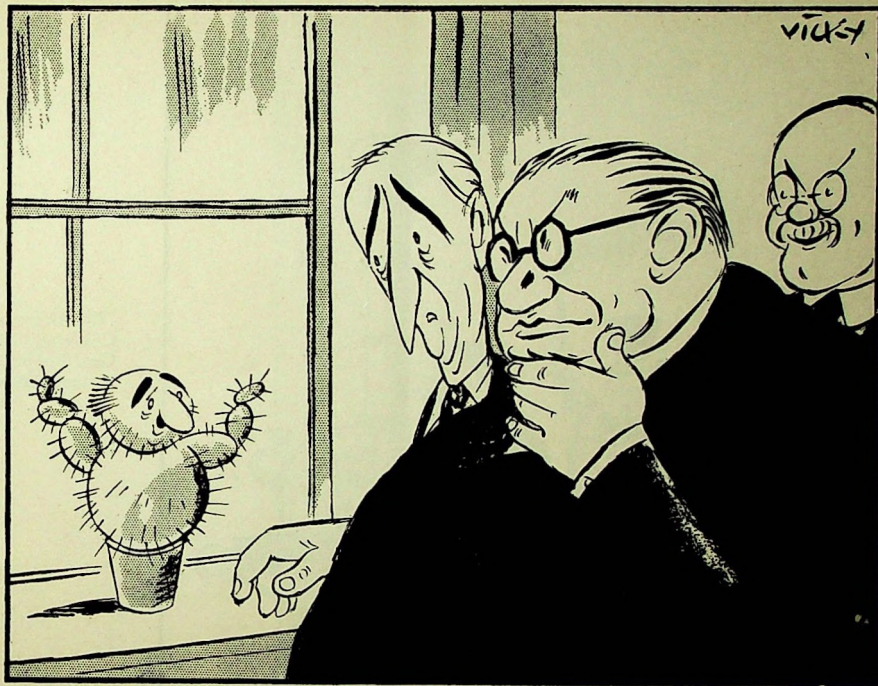
29th August, 1946. Paris Fashion Shows coincide with the Exhibition of Dis-Unity among the Big Four: M. Molotov, Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Bevin and M. Bidault.

vicky



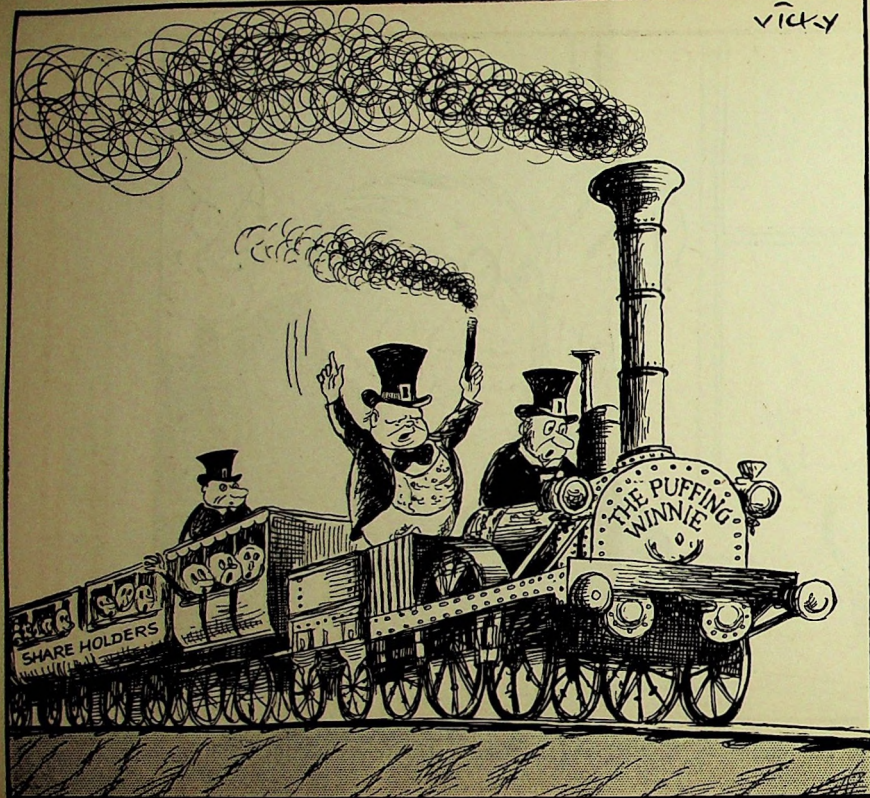
THE SQUATTER

12th September, 1946. Homeless Londoners take possession of several vacant blocks of flats.



28th October, 1946. Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Bevin and Mr. Molotov discuss the prickly problem of Franco-Spain.

vicky



18th December, 1946. Mr. Churchill leads The Old-Guard-opposition to the nationalization of the Railways.

CLAP, IF YOU BELIEVE IN FAIRIES

1st January, 1947. The new year begins with high hopes.





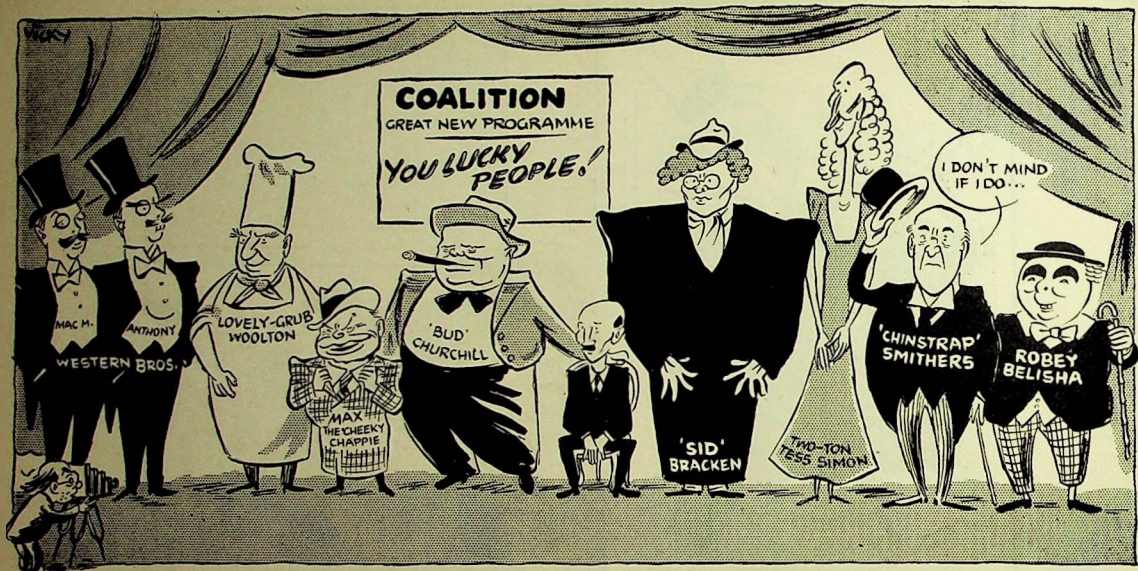
LAST DITCHERS

9th January, 1947. The Town and Country Planning Bill is strongly opposed by the Anti-Planners.



**"WHAT, WHEN WE NEED WORKERS! I'D PUT THEM
DOWN THE PITS WHERE THEY USED TO BE "**

20th January, 1947. Miss Ellen Wilkinson brings in her Education reforms.



Rumour still has it that Mr. Attlee is going to include Britain's favourite Comedians in his Government to Cheer up the people.

10th February, 1947. The Fuel Crisis hits Britain.

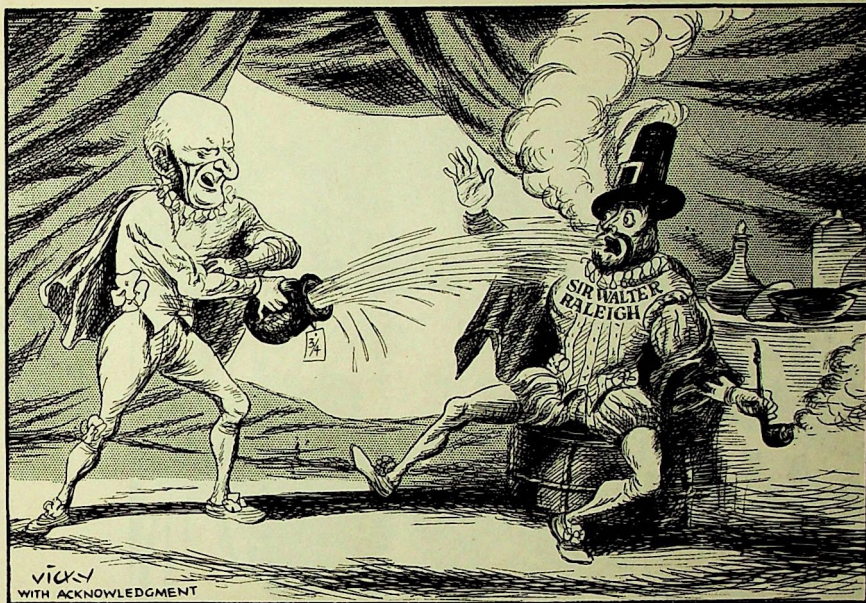


BLIZZARD

24th February, 1947. The Big Freeze-up is followed by The Economic Crisis.

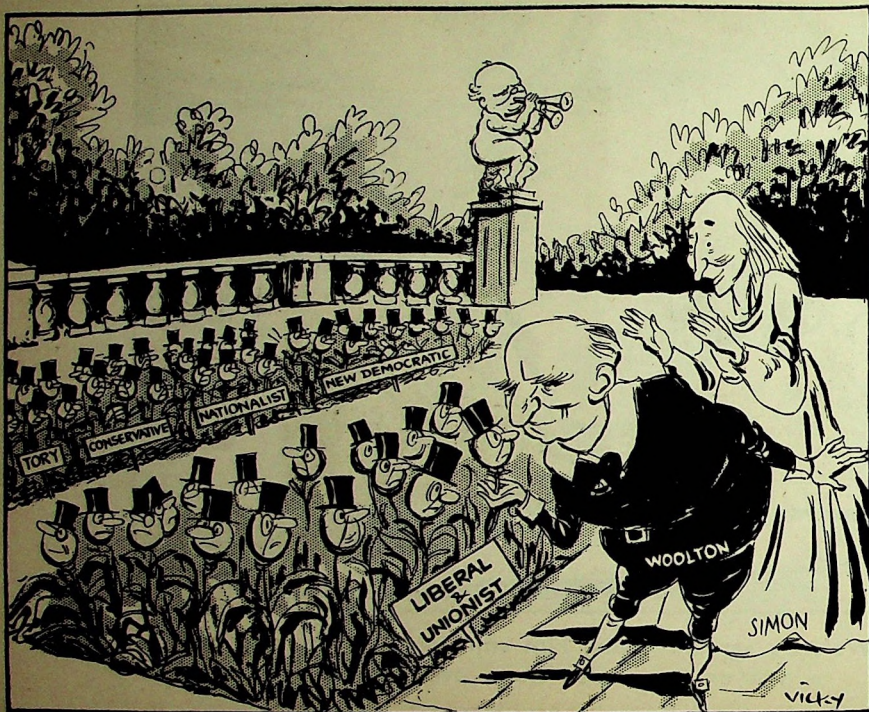


8th April, 1947. General de Gaulle calls for a "Rally of the French People" attacks the French constitution and does not conceal the authoritarian note in his voice.



“Sir Walter’s servant found him smoking, and thinking he was on fire, threw water over him”

17th April, 1947. Mr. Hugh Dalton’s Budget hits the smoker.



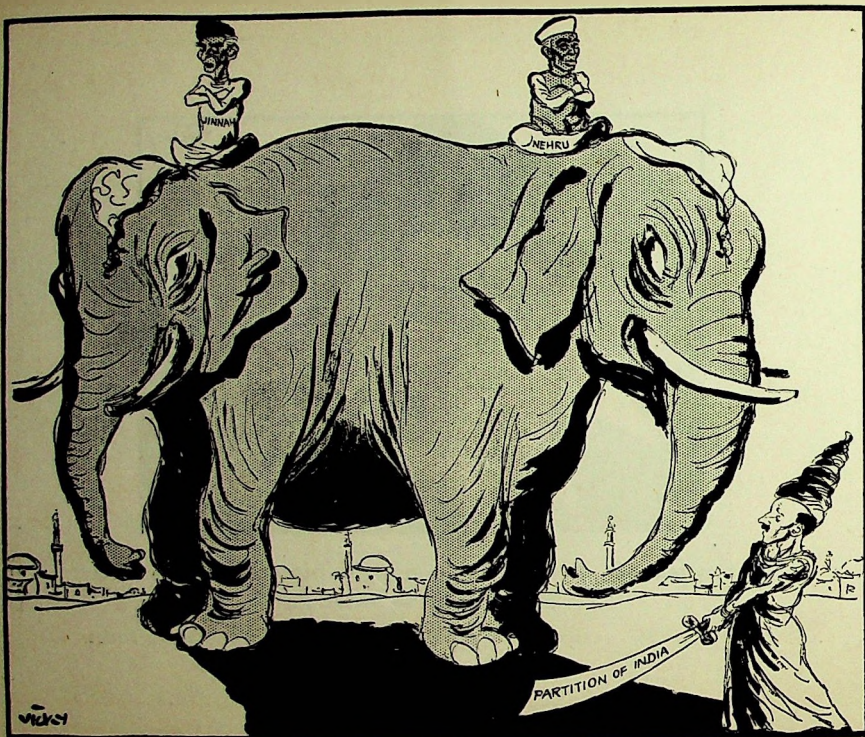
**"...BY ANY
OTHER NAME
WOULD SMELL
AS SWEET"**

12th May, 1947. The Tories
and National Liberals are
adopting yet another name.



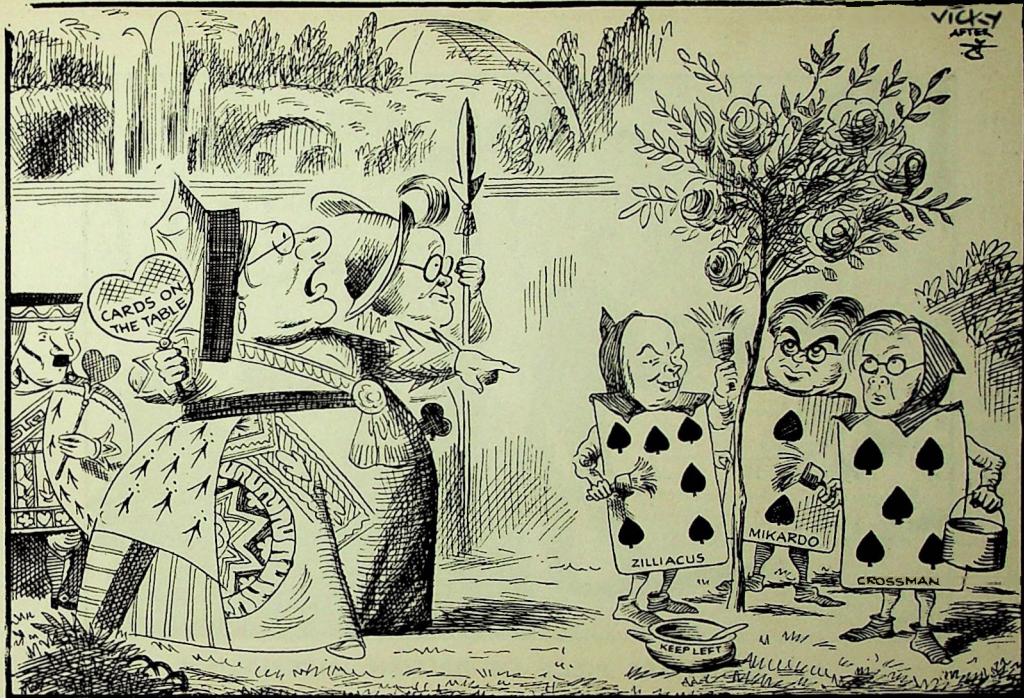
Last week Mr. Ernest Bevin bought himself an “Anthony Eden” Hat — News Item

19th May, 1947. Labours Foreign Policy differs little from that of the Tories.



JUDGMENT OF SOLOMON?

22nd May, 1947. Mr. Attlee is trying to find a solution to the Indian Problem.



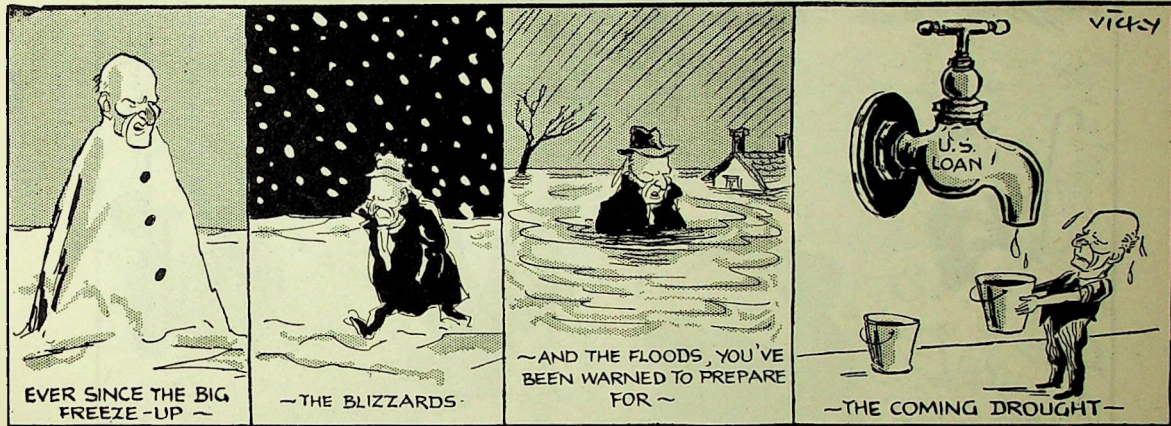
"The roses growing on it were white, but there were three Gardeners at it, busily painting them red..."

27th May, 1947. Appearance of the Labour Party "Keep Left" Group which is critical of Mr. Bevin's Foreign Policy.



AH, ANOTHER PIECE OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM

4th June, 1947. Freedom comes to India and Pakistan.



5th June, 1947. The Dollar Loan is running out.



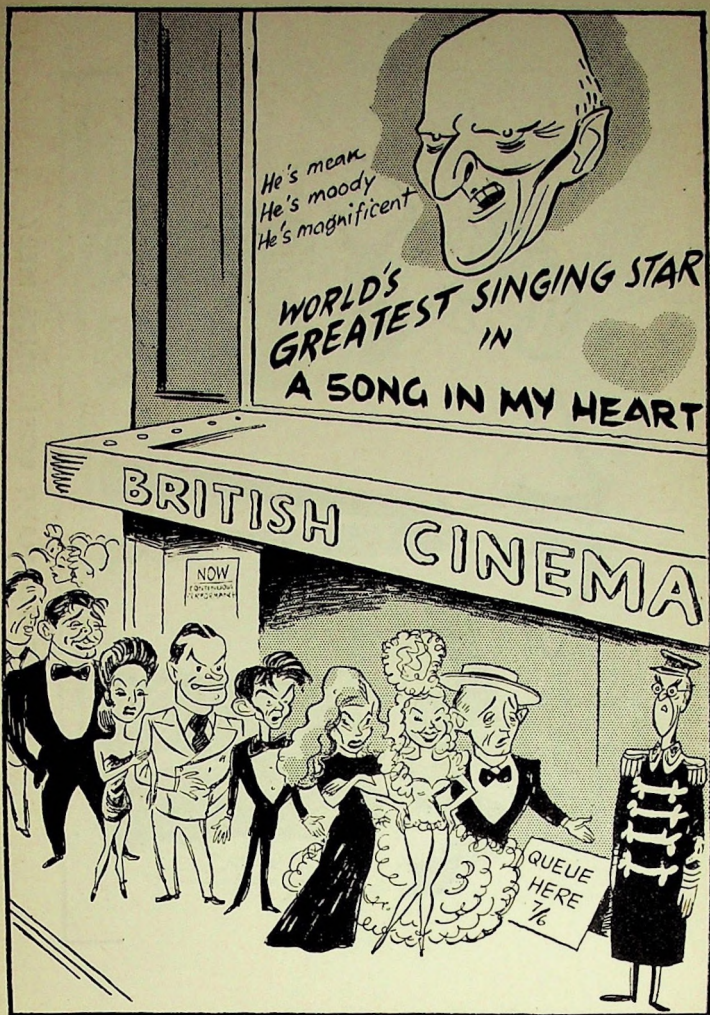
CAN ANY OF YOU SHEEP SHOW US THE WAY?

6th July, 1947. M. Bidault, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Marshall and M. Molotov still can't agree.



TRYING TO MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET

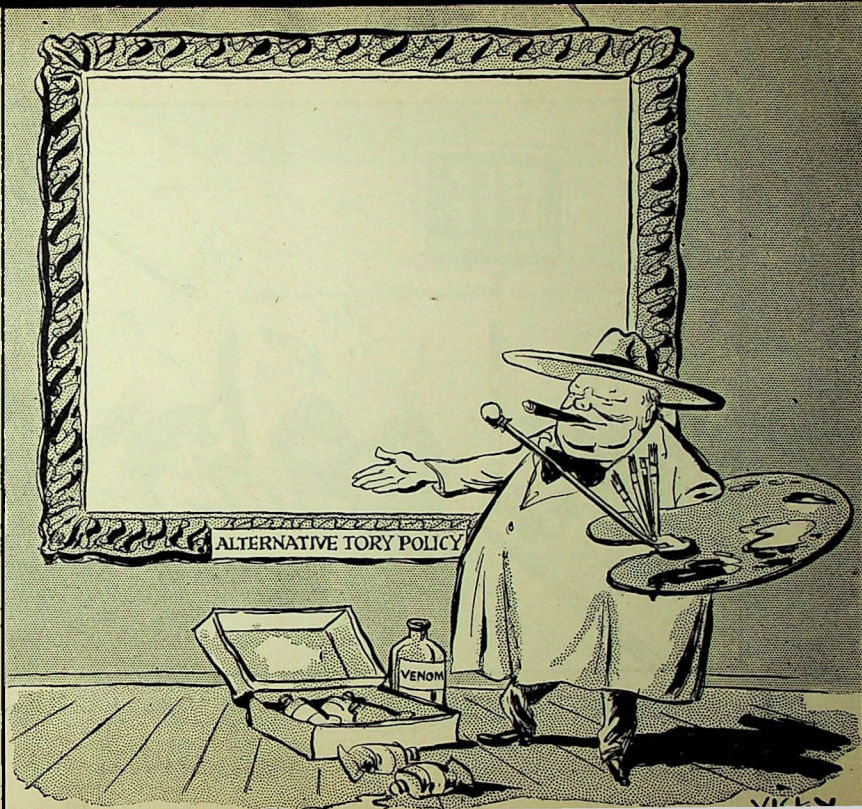
9th July, 1947. The Battle of the Import-Export Gap is on.



11th August, 1947. The cut in Hollywood Films may bring new British talent to the screen.

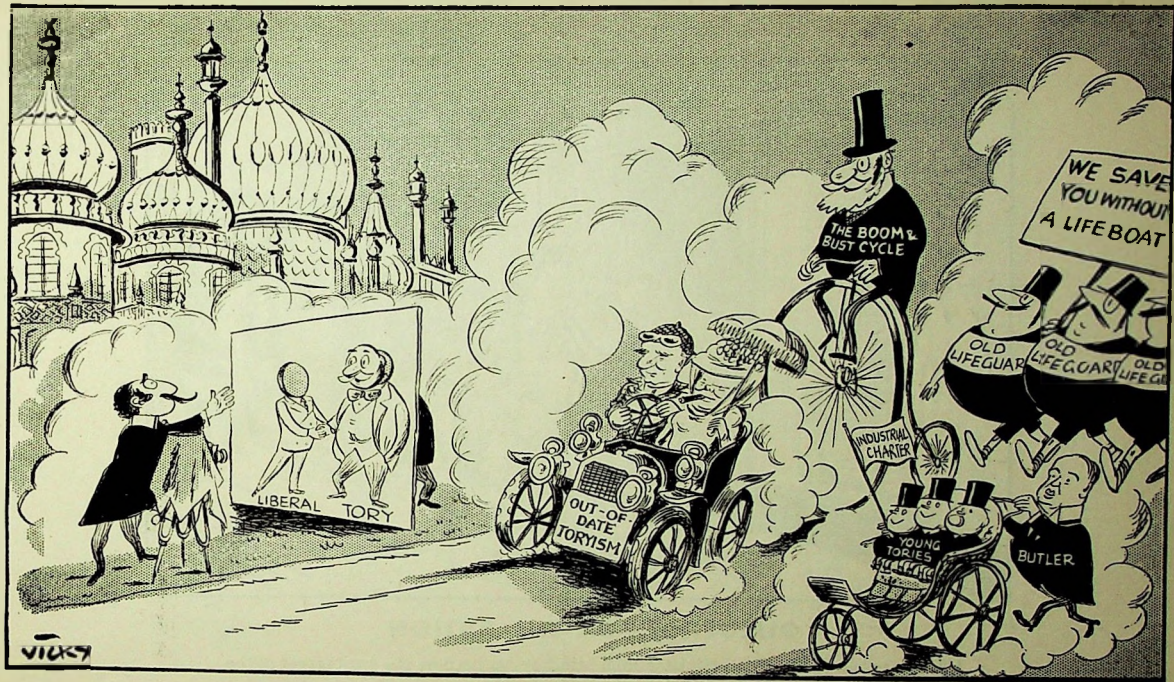
THE OLD MASTER

29th September, 1947. The Conservatives still do not offer any alternative policy.





9th October, 1947. Differences of the "Left" and "Right" in The Labour Party become more apparent.



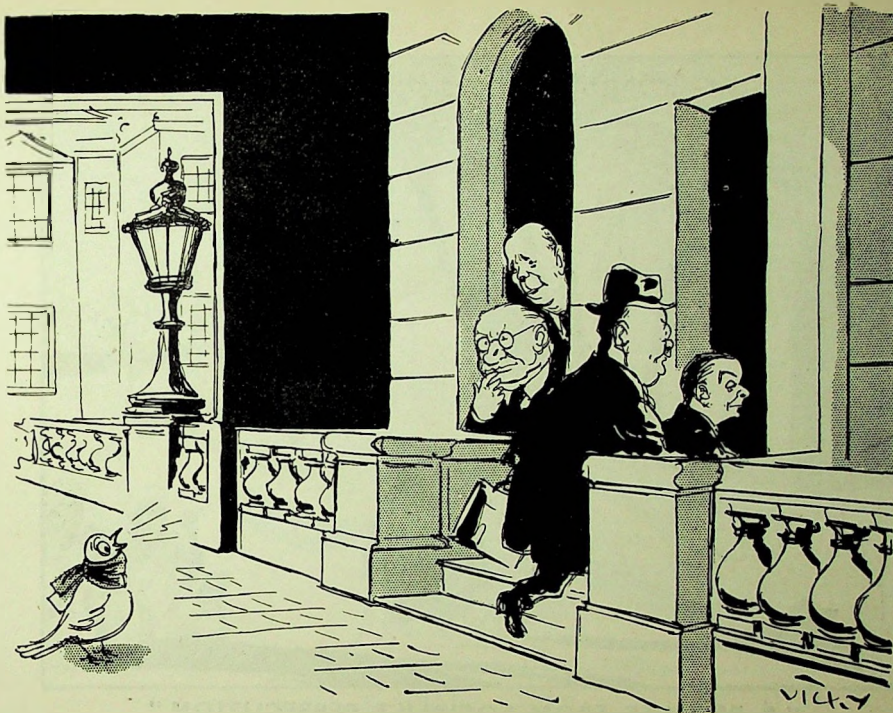
ON THE ROAD TO BRIGHTON

20th October, 1947. Conservative Party Conference at Brighton.



QUEUEING FOR THE RATION

11th November, 1947. Food Minister John Strachey has become the main target of the "Housewives' League."



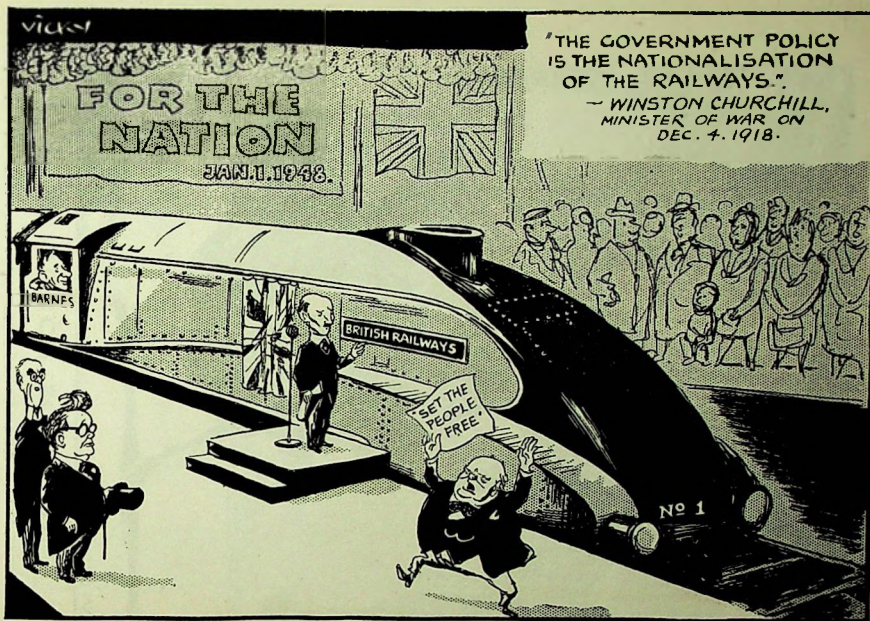
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

24th November, 1947. Another Conference of the Big Four opens in London.



"A REFUGEE FROM SOCIALIST PERSECUTION"

15th December, 1947. Mr. Churchill on holiday in Marakesh.



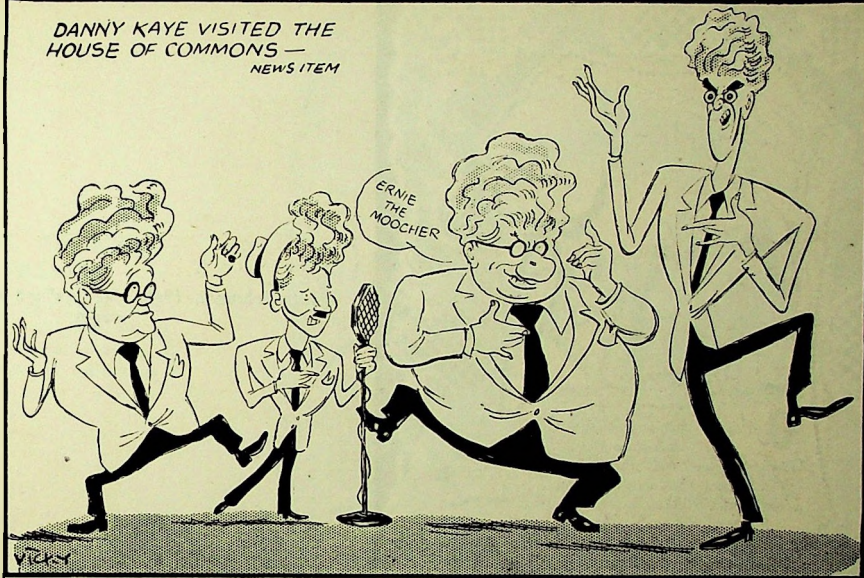
30 YEARS AFTER
1st January, 1948. Nationalisation of the Railways.



"TO BE, OR NOT TO BE..."

9th February, 1948. Sir Stafford Cripps warns the nation in week-end speeches

DANNY KAYE VISITED THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS —
NEWS ITEM



**Extraordinary effect on the Cabinet, which passes on the tonic
to the Nation**

12th February, 1948. London goes wild over Danny Kaye.

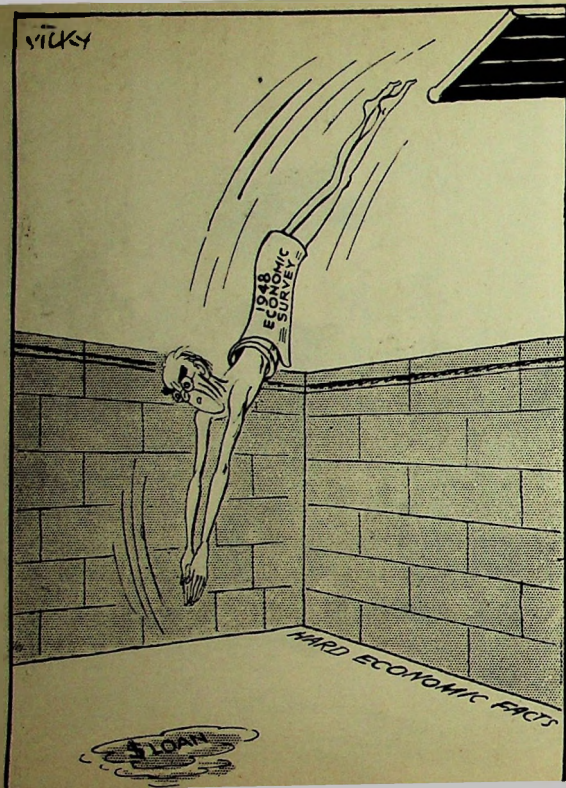


13th February, 1948. Sir Stafford Cripps freezes wages.

THE MIGHTY FALLEN

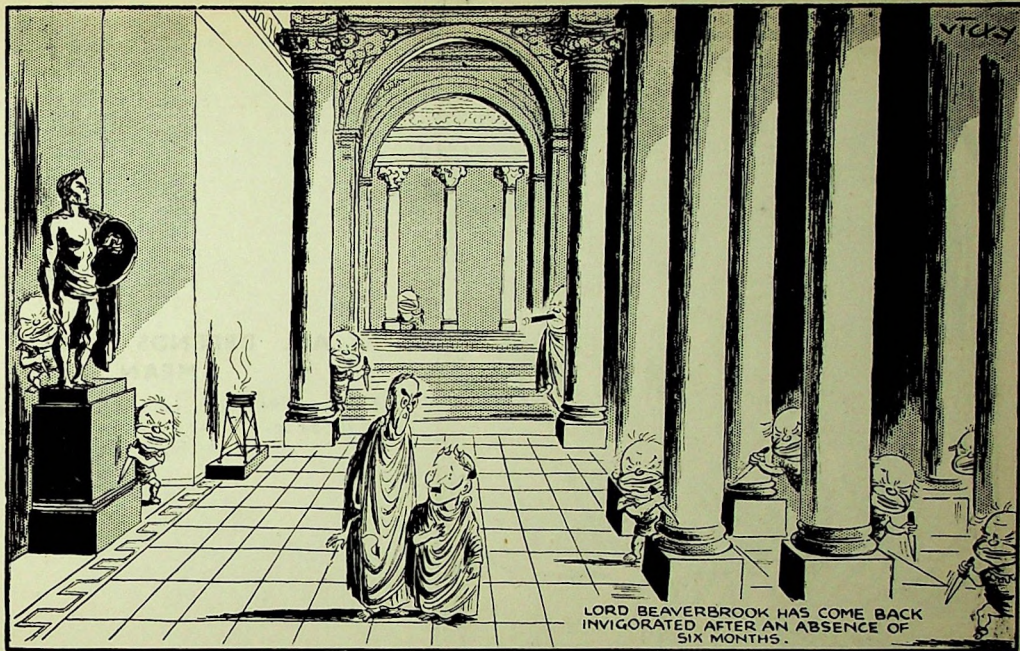
5th March, 1948. The
National Assistance Bill re-
ceives its third reading in
the House of Commons.





THE LAST DIP

8th March, 1948. The Chancellor's Economic White Paper discloses some hard economic facts.



BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

15th March, 1948. Lord Beaverbrook, vigorous critic of the Government re-appears on the scene.



IT ALL DEPENDS WHAT YOU MEAN

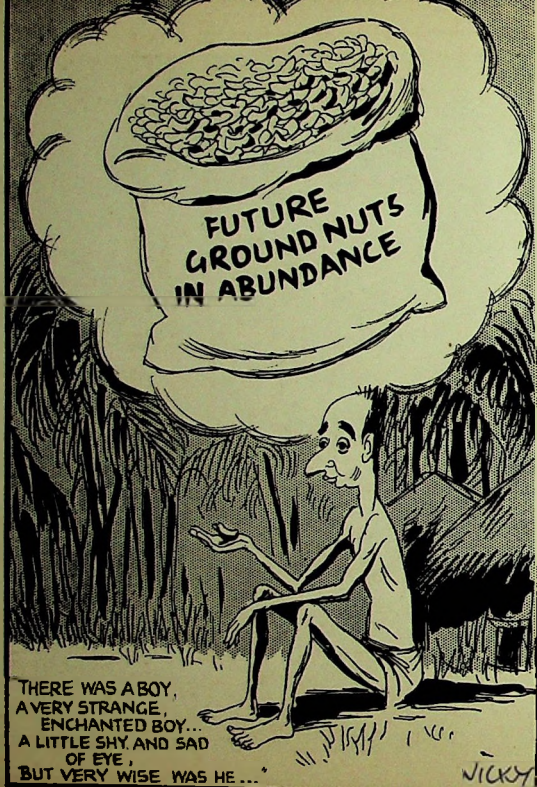
13th April, 1948. Dr. Joad and the Brains Trust are on the air again — and still there is deadlock among the Big Three.

VICKY'S NATIONAL GALLERY
(CLEANED PICTURE DEPT.)



"THE LAUGHING CAVALIER" IS BACK

2nd June, 1948. Mr. Hugh Dalton rejoins the Government.

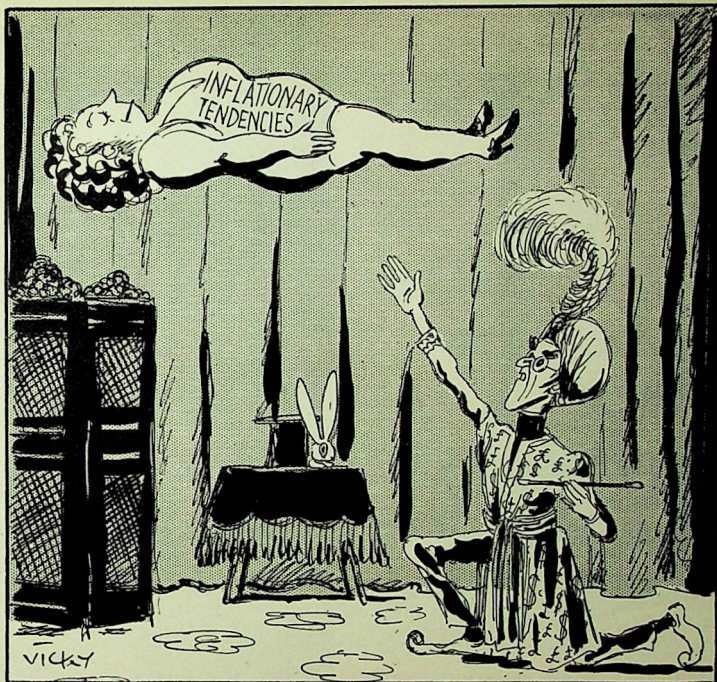


THERE WAS A BOY,
A VERY STRANGE,
ENCHANTED BOY...
A LITTLE SHY AND SAD
OF EYE,
BUT VERY WISE WAS HE...

NATURE BOY

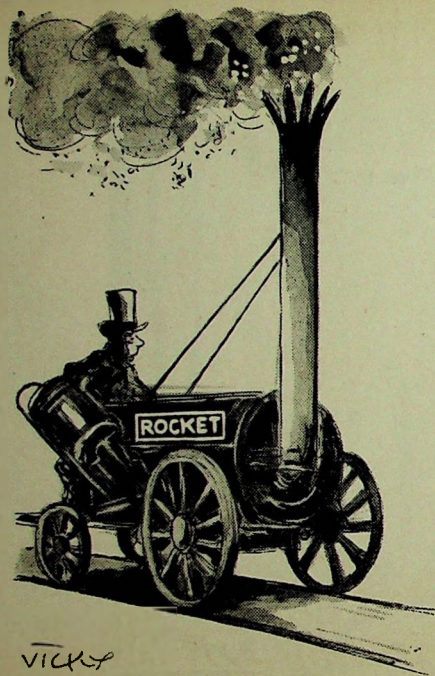
(THE LATEST SONG HIT)

18th June, 1948. Mr. John Strachey defends the
Ground Nuts Scheme in face of strong criticism.

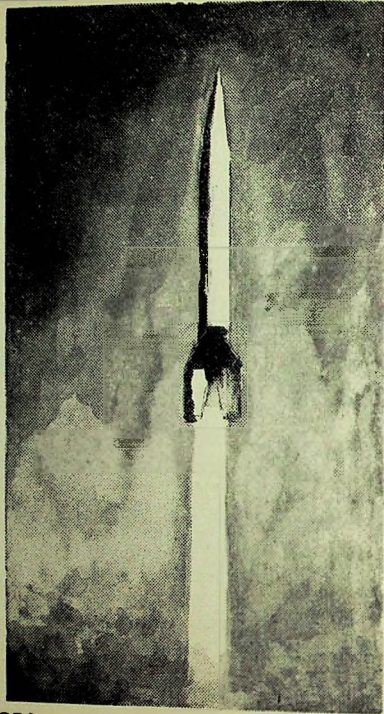


LADY SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR

16th July, 1948. The annual general meeting of the Magic Circle is being held.

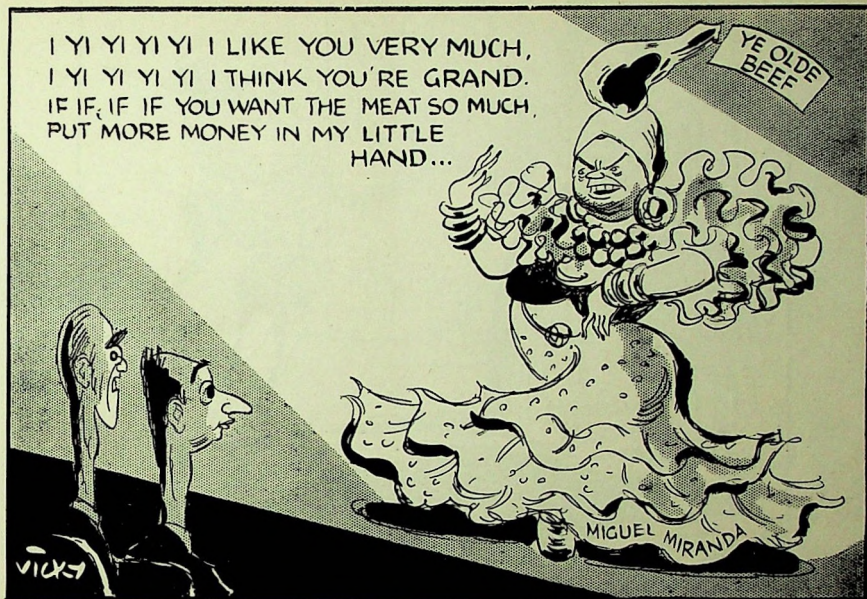


VICKI



PROGRESS?

12th August, 1948. Centenary of the death of George Stephenson Inventor of the locomotive.



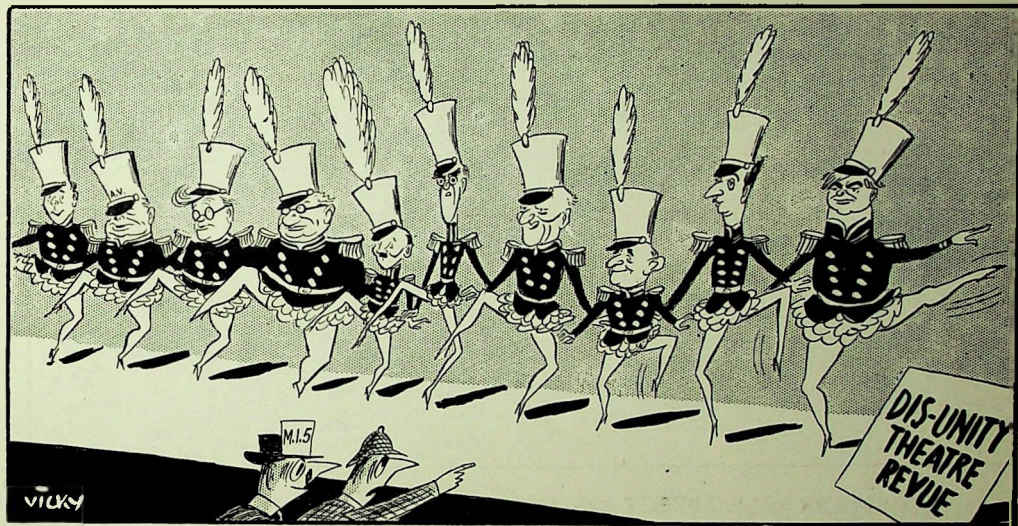
THE ARGENTINIAN BOMBSHELL

16th August, 1948. Senor Miranda, Peron's economic expert increases Argentina's price for meat.



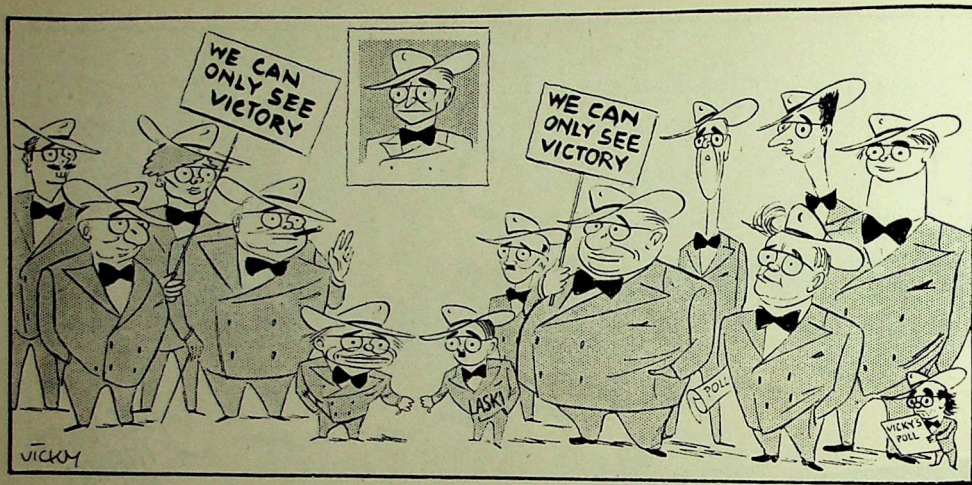
"With courtesy but with conviction we must say what we mean to do"

3rd September, 1948. Mr. Shinwell is polite at the T.U.C. conference at Margate.



“WATCH THEM, THEY’RE KICKING WITH THEIR LEFT LEGS!”

7th October, 1948. A girl, who in her spare-time appeared in the Unity Theatre Revue “What’s Left” is purged from the Ministry of Supply.



REMARKABLE EFFECT OF MR. TRUMAN'S VICTORY ON OUR POLITICIANS

10th November, 1948. Both the Labour and Conservative Party draw inspiration from Mr. Truman's sensational Election Victory.



**EXCLUSIVE PHOTOGRAPH OF VICKYDILLY CIRCUS
ALL LIT UP**

4th April, 1949. Neon lights again.



What danger is the Pilgrim in,
 How many are his foes !
 How many ways there are to sin,
 No living mortal knows.

—THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

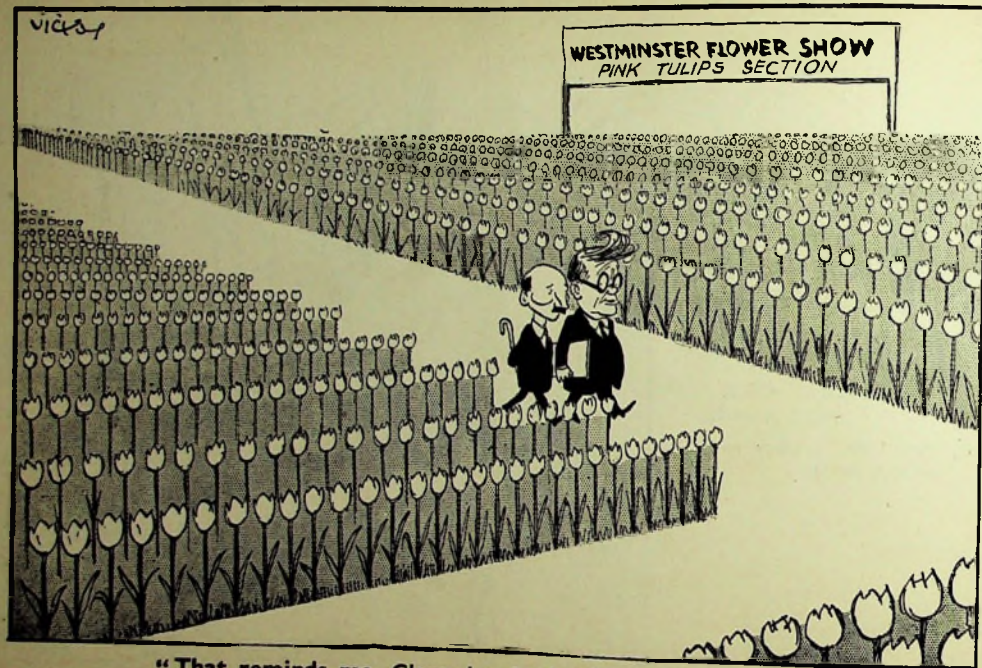
6th April, 1949. Sir Stafford's Budget Day.

... Yet I have not seen so
likely an ambassador of love:
a day in April never came so
sweet . . .

—“THE MERCHANT OF VENICE”
Act II, Scene III.

23rd April, 1949. Mr. Strachey ends
sweet rationing.





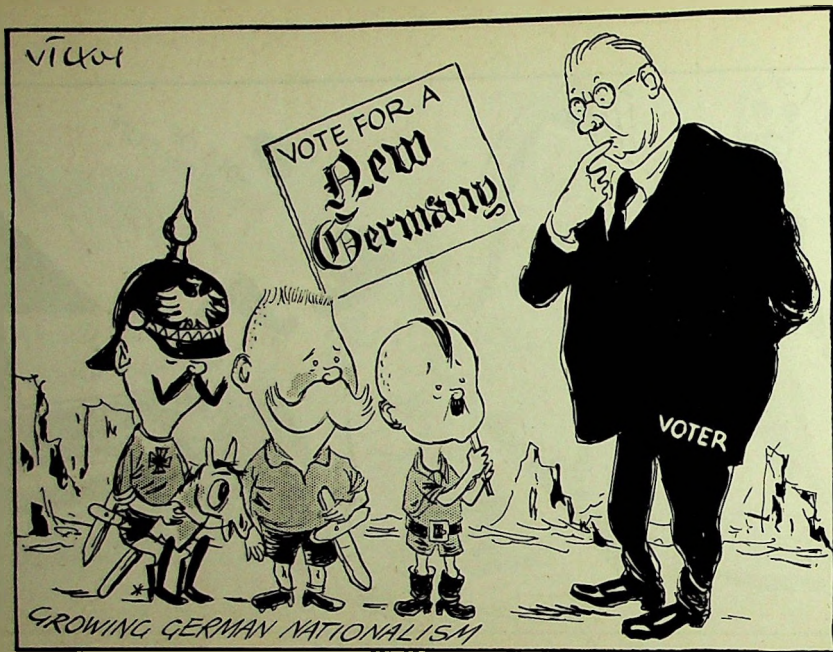
"That reminds me, Clem, how's the Party Discipline this morning?"

24th May, 1949. Labour Rank and file continue to be restive.



THE ANTI-MARX BROTHERS

17th June, 1949. Harpo and Chico Marx appeared in Blackpool and London.



"HAVEN'T I SEEN THESE FACES BEFORE?"

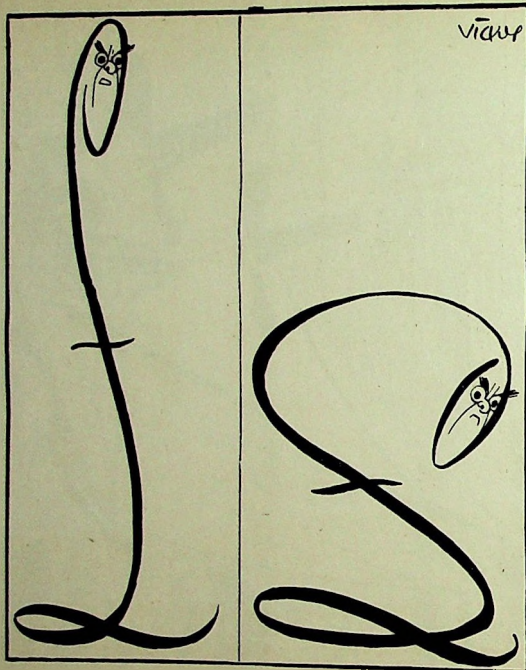
9th August, 1949. Election in West Germany discloses growth of nationalism and neo-nazism.



The GOLD\$MITH BROTHERS

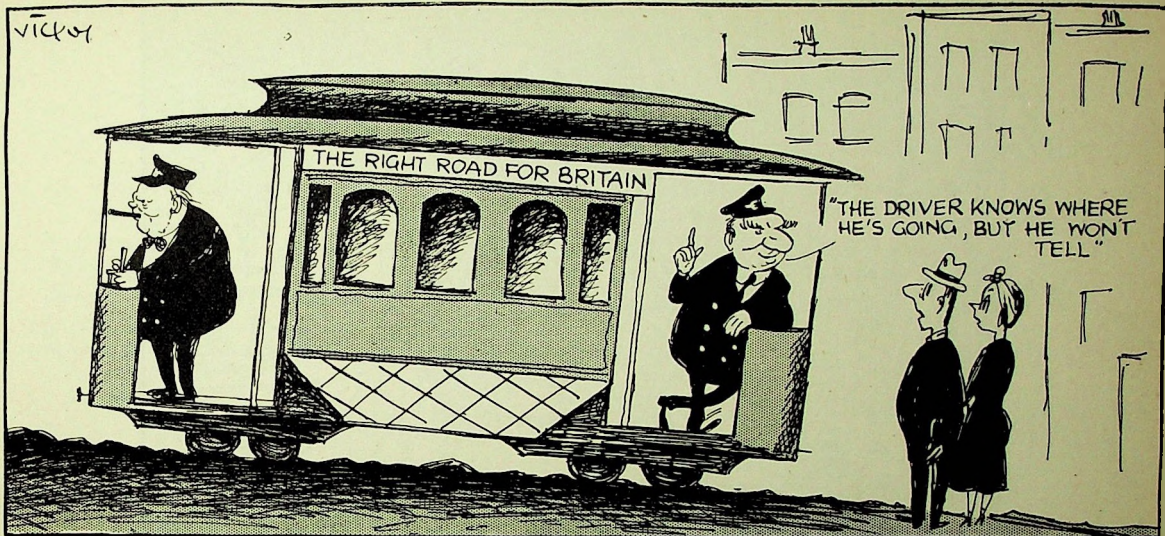
23rd August, 1949. Sir Stafford's and Mr. Bevin's visit to Washington coincides with the dramatic crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by the Smith Brothers

BEFORE



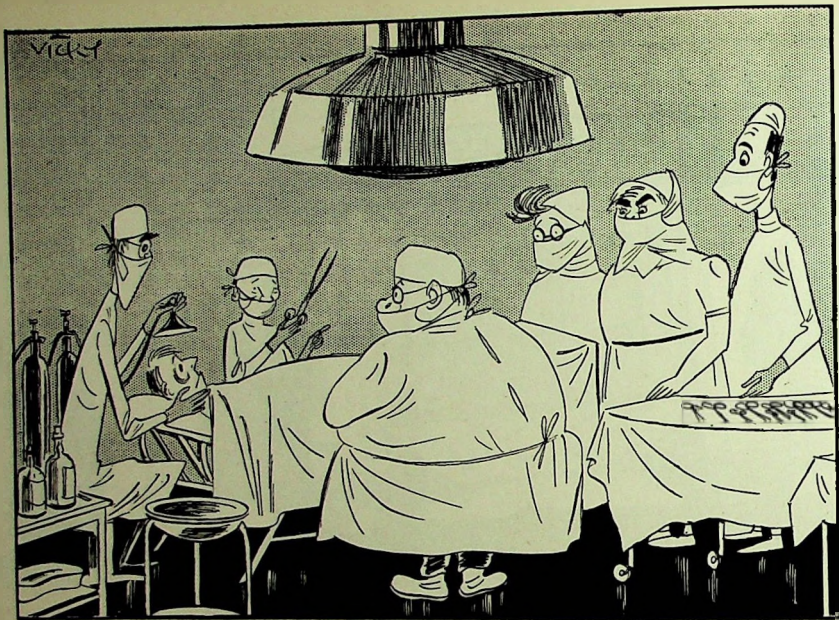
AFTER

23rd September, 1949. The £ is de-valued.



A STREETCAR NAMED DISASTER

21st October, 1949. The Conservative pamphlet "The Right Road for Britain" again fails to disclose an alternative policy.

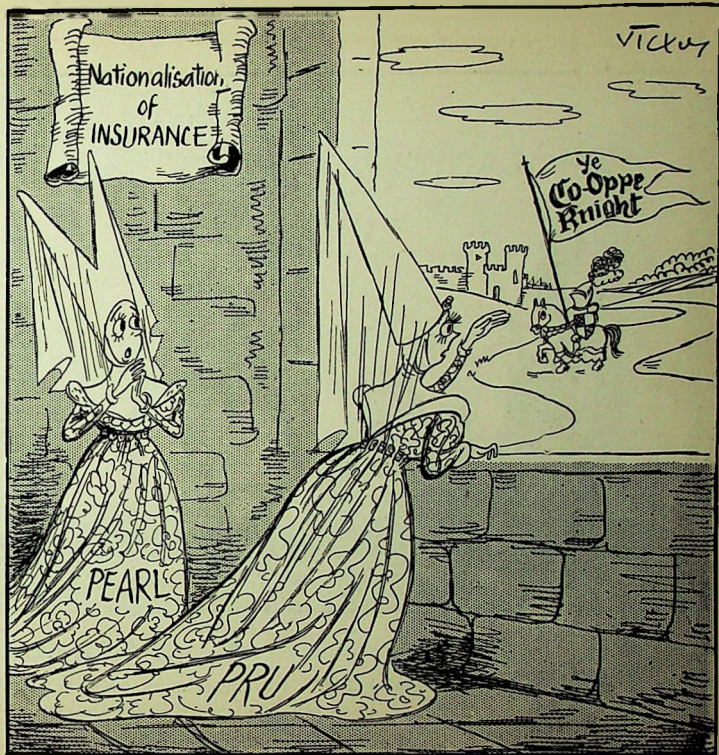


" This is going to hurt us more than it hurts you "

24th October, 1949. More cuts to bridge the Dollar Gap.

**"Sister Pru, Sister Pru, do
you see anyone coming?"**

27th October, 1949. The proposed
Nationalisation of Insurance finds an un-
expected opponent.





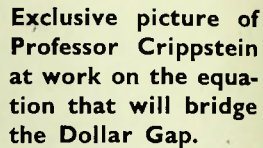
ALL-OF-A-ZITHER?

15th November, 1949. The Zither music from the Thlrđ Man sweeps the country —
meanwhile the Cabinet is uneasy about nationalising steel.



**"NOW BOYS, LET'S WATCH AND SEE THAT NOBODY
COME TO WAKE HER UP"**

14th December, 1949. Cost of Living rises while wages remain frozen.



29th December, 1949. Professor Einstein finds the "Key to the Universe."

CARTOONISTS' FORUM

TRUE TO TRADITION, VICKY HANDS
OVER HIS PEN TO
GUEST CARTOONISTS
OF ALL PARTIES,
WHO WILL DEAL WITH
THE BURNING
ISSUES OF
THE ELECTION



THE GOVERNMENT - AH!

By
Pinky
THE OFFICIAL TRANSPORT
HOUSE CARTOONIST



THE GOVERNMENT - BAH!

DRAWN BY
STUNT
THE FAMOUS MIRTH-PROVOKING
TORY ARTIST

WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM THESE AND OTHER BRILLIANT
ARTISTS. ORDER YOUR COPY

NOW

THE NEXT BIG FIGHT

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THE CONTESTANTS



'DOC' MORRISON, TRAINER:
"IT'S IN THE BAG. THE
CHAMP'S IN GREAT SHAPE"

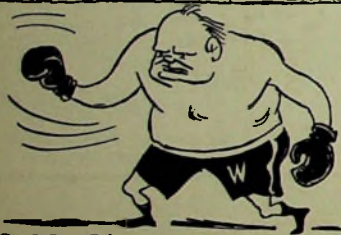
FAIR-SHARES
NO
FREE-FOR-ALL
FIGHTS



'MORG' PHILLIPS, MANAGER:
"CLEM AIN'T GOT NO KILLER'S
PUNCH BUT HE'LL WIN ON
STRACHEY POINTS!"



'BATTLING' CLEM: "I'LL KEEP MY TITLE,
I'LL BOX STRICTLY ACCORDING TO PLAN"



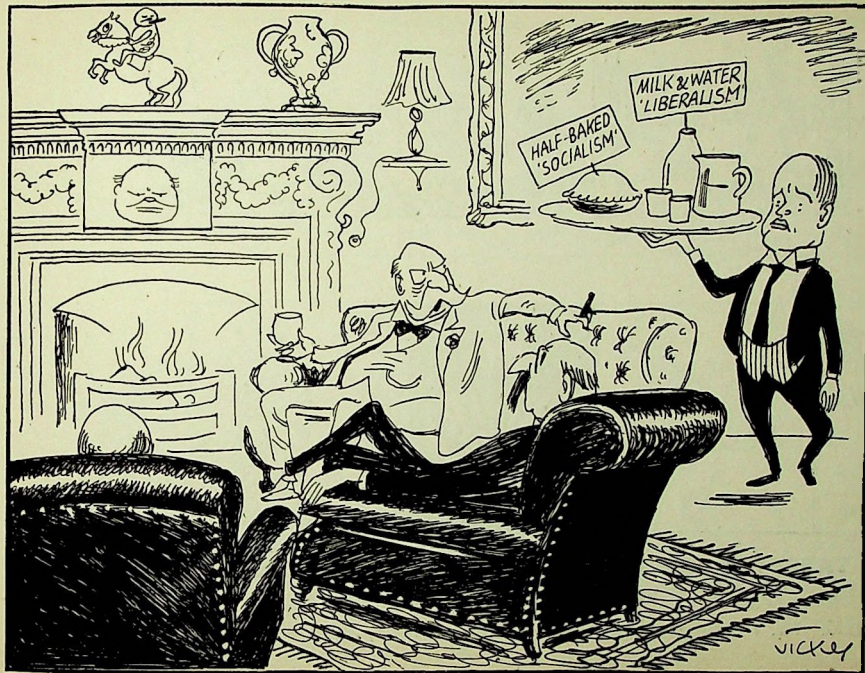
'SLOGGER' CHURCHILL: "I'LL LICK
THE GUY THIS TIME! YOU WATCH
THAT RIGHT HOOK OF MINE!"



'WOOLLY' WOOLTON, TRAINER:
"WINNIE CAN'T LOSE! HIS
SHADOW-CABINET-BOXING'S
TERRIFIC!"

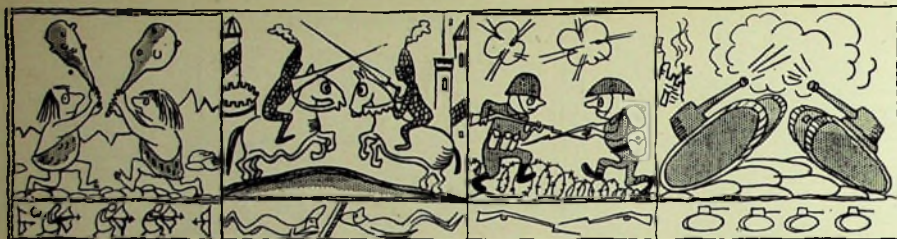


HOT TIP FROM OLD-TIMER VICKY:
"A CLASSIC STRAIGHT LEFT
WILL ALWAYS DEFEAT
A RIGHT SWING!"



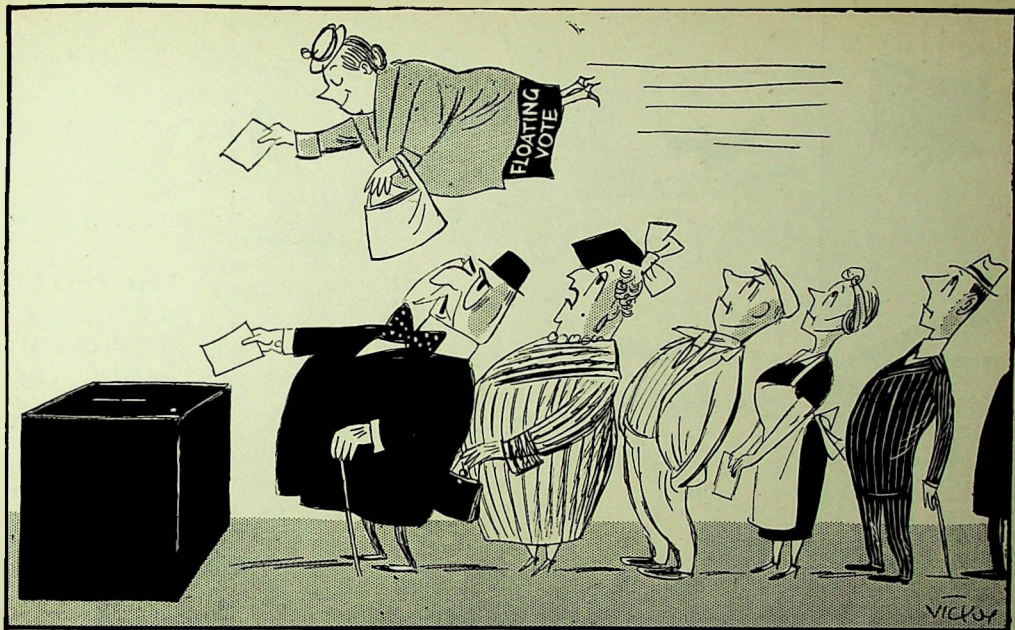
**“ Dangerous Feller,
this Butler—they say
he’s a Red !”**

27th January, 1950. Mr. R. A.
Butler is suspected of being
a “ progressive ” Tory.



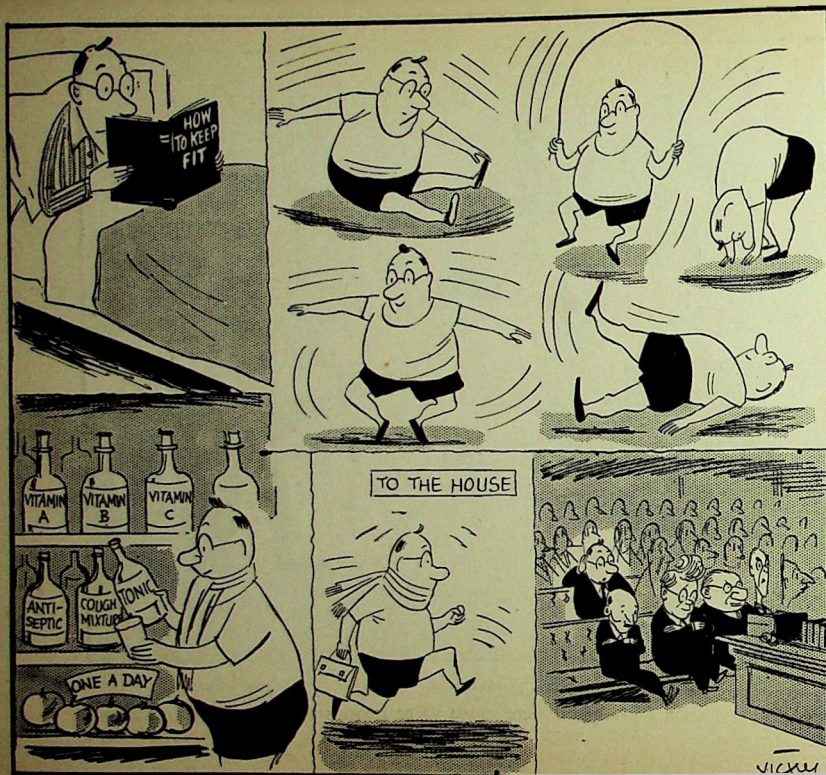
VICKY'S TAPESTRY OF A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WORLD

1st February, 1950. Mr. Truman announces the manufacture of the hydrogen bomb.



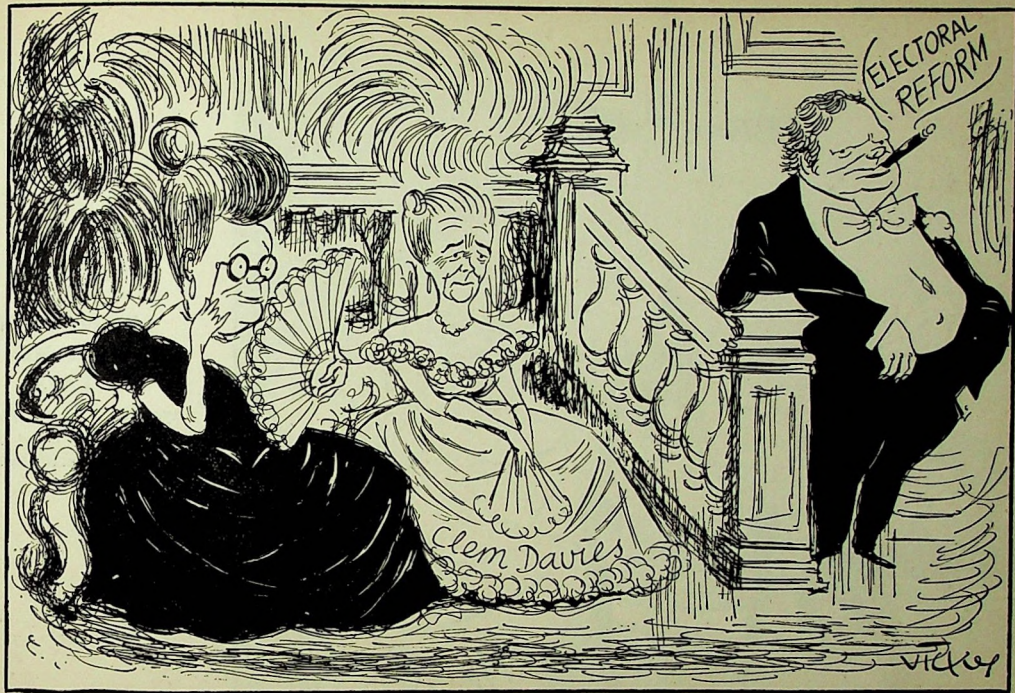
ONE OF OURS?

23rd February, 1950. Election day — and the undecided Voter remains the question mark.



THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A NEW LABOUR M.P.

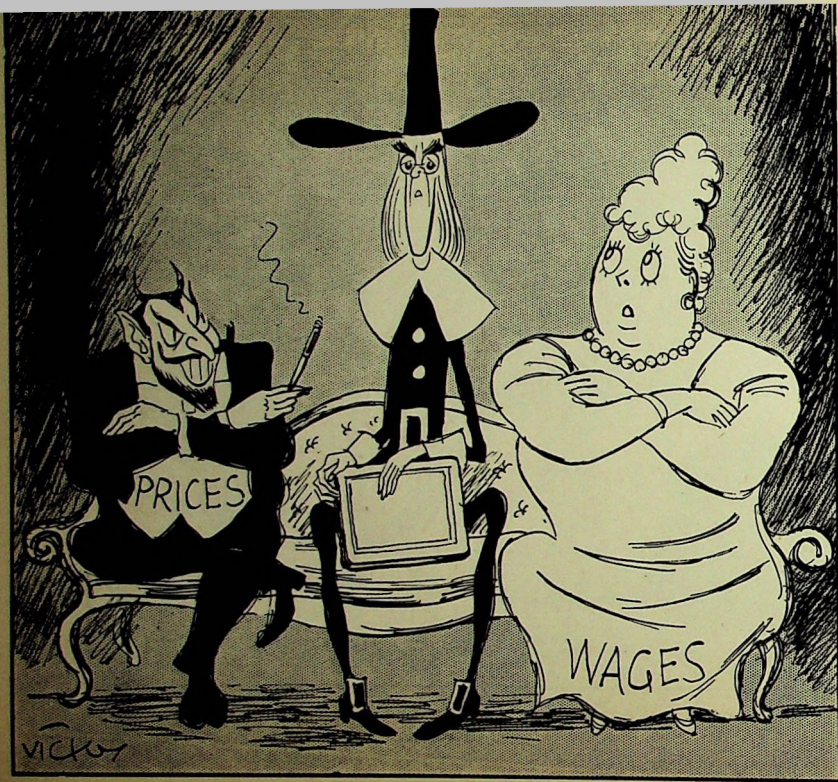
28th February, 1950. Labour's
small majority is a strain on
the whips and M.P.'s.



" He thinks like a Tory, and talks like a Radical, and that's so important nowadays "

OSCAR WILDE, " *Lady Windermere's Fan*," Act II.

10th March, 1950. Mr. Churchill continues to give lip-service to Liberal ideals.

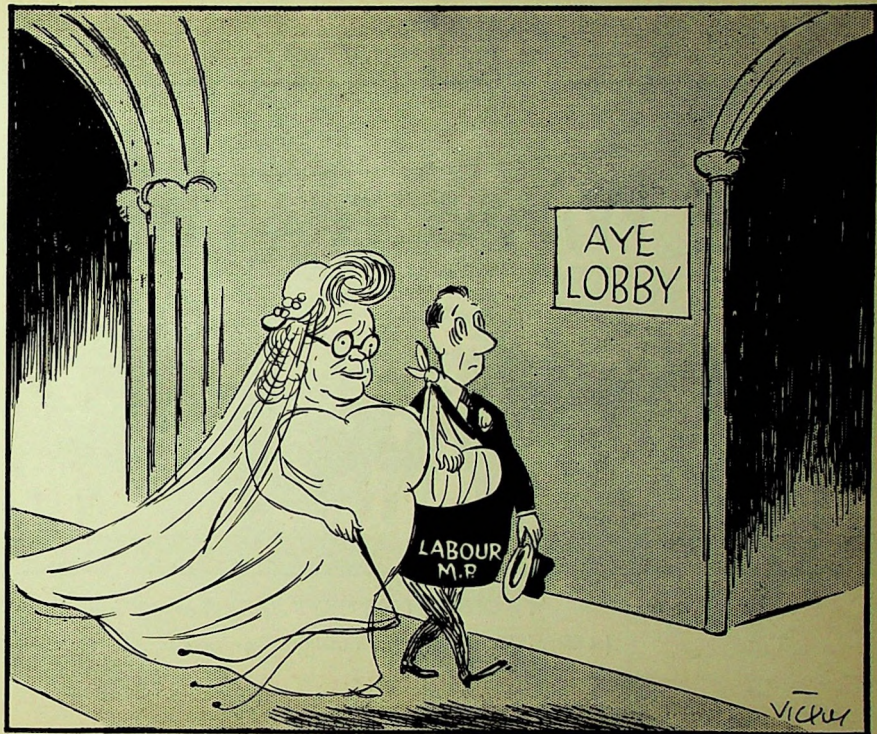


**BETWEEN THE
DEVIL AND THE
T.U.C.**

17th April, 1950. Prices are
rising while wage demands
are restrained.

**IN SICKNESS
AND
IN HEALTH**

27th April, 1950. Discipline
among Labour M.P.'s is
tightened.

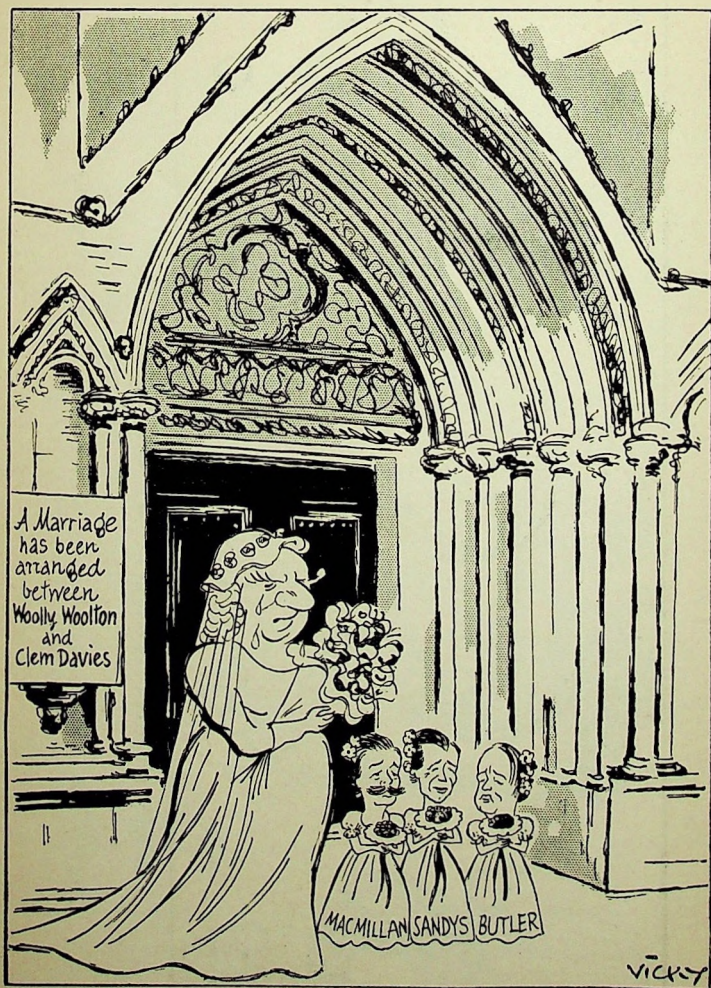


Let Us Win^{nie} Through together



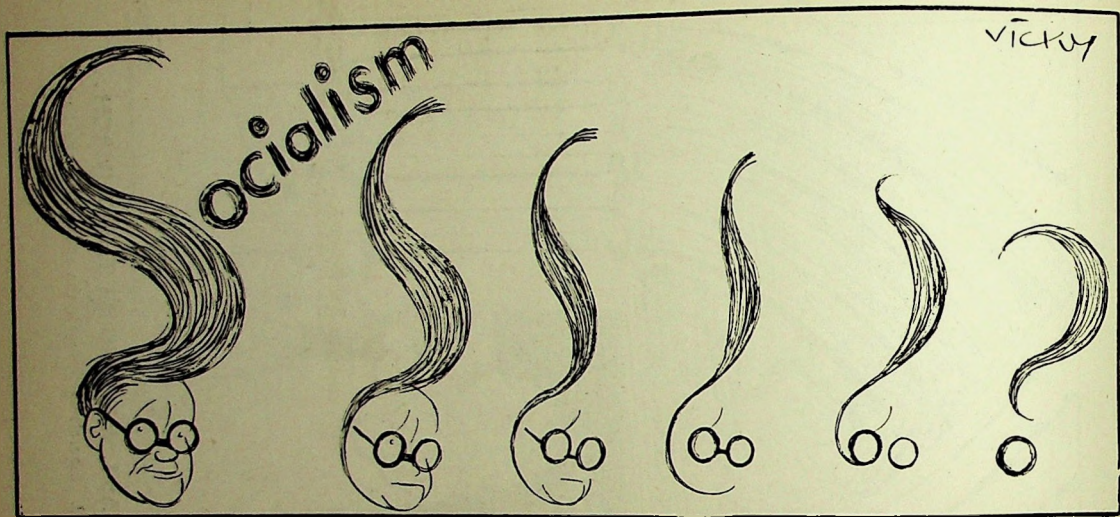
FACING THE FUTURE (Tory Version)

1st May, 1950. Rumours of a coalition Government under Mr. Churchill.



THERE WAS I, WAITING AT THE CHURCH...

11th May, 1950. Liberals again reject the advances of the Tories.



"THE INEVITABILITY OF GRADUALNESS"

—In memory of Sidney Webb.

22nd May, 1950. Labour leaders hold a Week-end conference to decide future policy
at Beatrice Webb House, Dorking.



WHILE THE SUN SHINES

9th June, 1950. Heat wave in Whitehall.

**"BRITAIN IS NOT JUST A SMALL
CROWDED ISLAND OFF THE WESTERN
COAST OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE"**
-FROM THE LABOUR PARTY STATEMENT



MAPS AND MEN

19th June, 1950. The Government remains aloof of "United Europe" and the "Schuman Plan."

VICKY
AFTER DAUMIER

PEACE



"The very nearness of the Peril may help all Nations to realise what folly War is, how utterly unnecessary, how all, whichever side they be, can find peace and protection in collective Security."

SIR HARTLEY SHAWCROSS

3rd July, 1950. War in Korea threatens World Peace.

VICKY



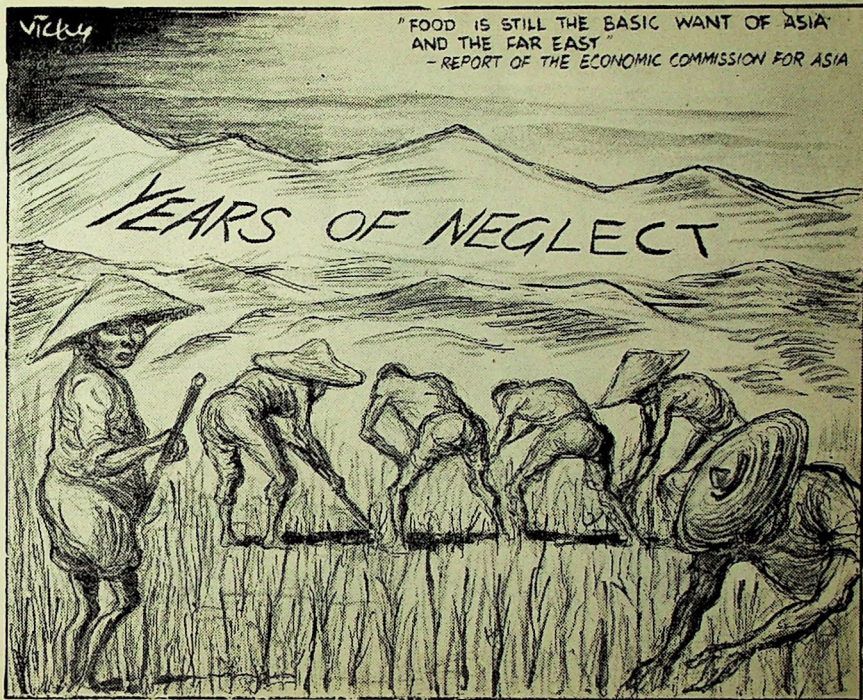
**COME ALONG, SIR,
DON'T KEEP THE
GENTLEMAN
WAITING**

2nd August, 1950. Renewed
wooing by Lord Woolton.

**"AN EMPTY
STOMACH IS NOT
A GOOD POLITIC-
AL ADVISER"**

ALBERT EINSTEIN

18th August, 1950. Report
of the Economic Commission
for Asia reveals grim facts.



VICKY



23rd August, 1950. Peace
efforts by India's Prime
Minister.

SEPTEMBER MORN AT BRIGHTON

4th September, 1950. T.U.C.
Conference faces the rise in
cost of living.



**GRAND RE-OPENING
OF PARLIAMENT ON SEPT. 12**
(STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON)

DEFINITE APPEARANCE
(ONE DAY ONLY)
OF THE
INIMITABLE,
ABSOLUTELY
INDISPENSABLE

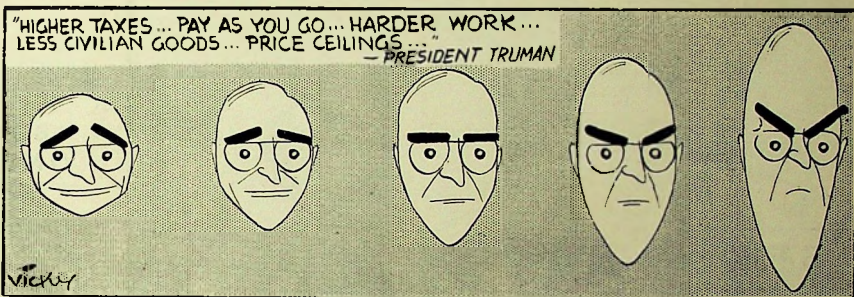
**PRIMA
DONNA**



SINGING HER HAUNTING
"BEWITCHED, BOTHERED
AND BEWILDERED"

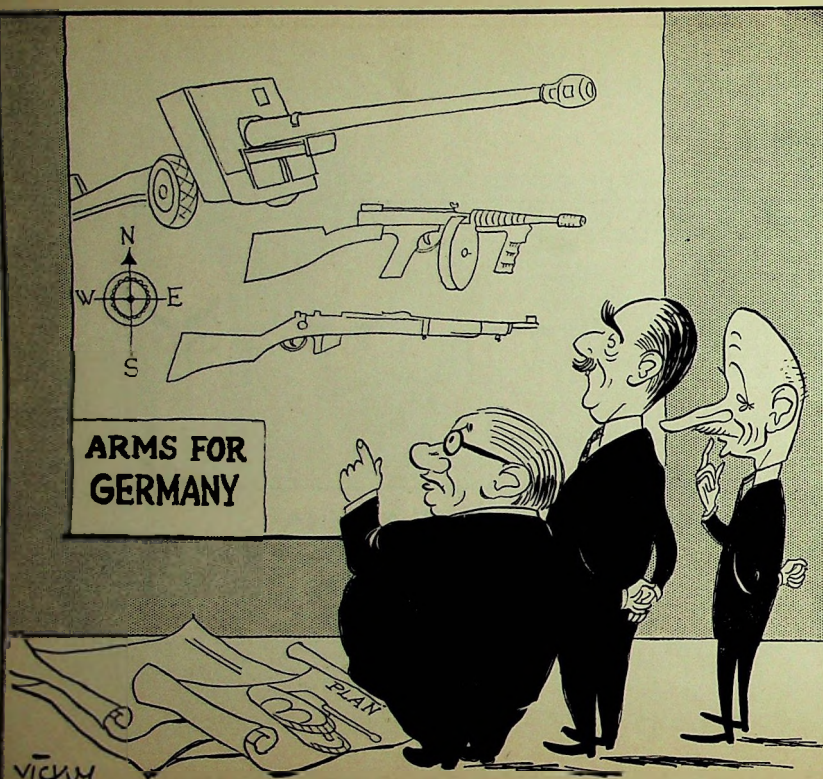


5th September, 1950. Parliament recalled on insistence of
Mr. Churchill.



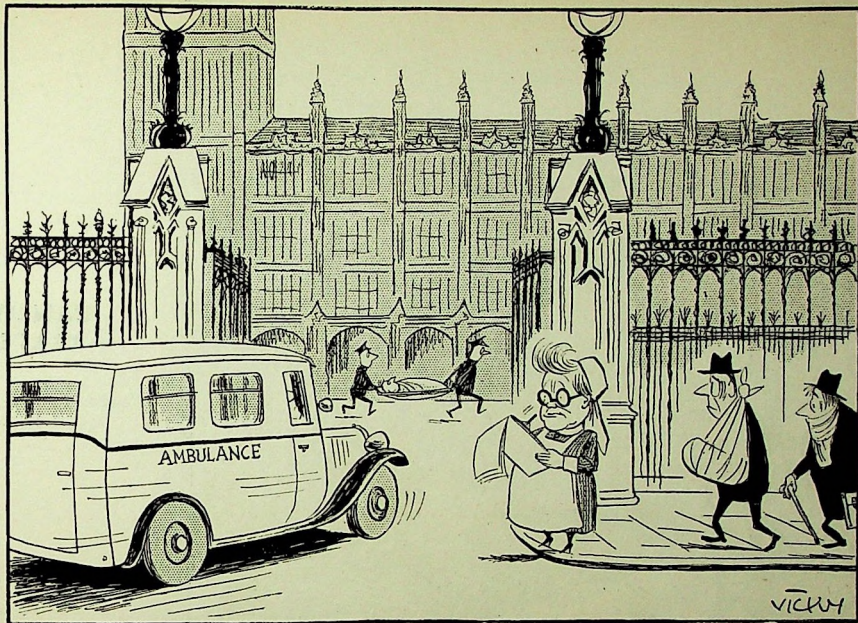
THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA

13th September, 1950. Some of Mr. Truman's measures are familiar to us.



**"BUT WILL THEY
ONLY SHOOT
EASTWARDS?"**

14th September, 1950. British
and French doubts about
German re-armament.



**Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid
of the Party**

19th September, 1950. Even sick M.P.'s are brought to the House to save The Government from defeat.



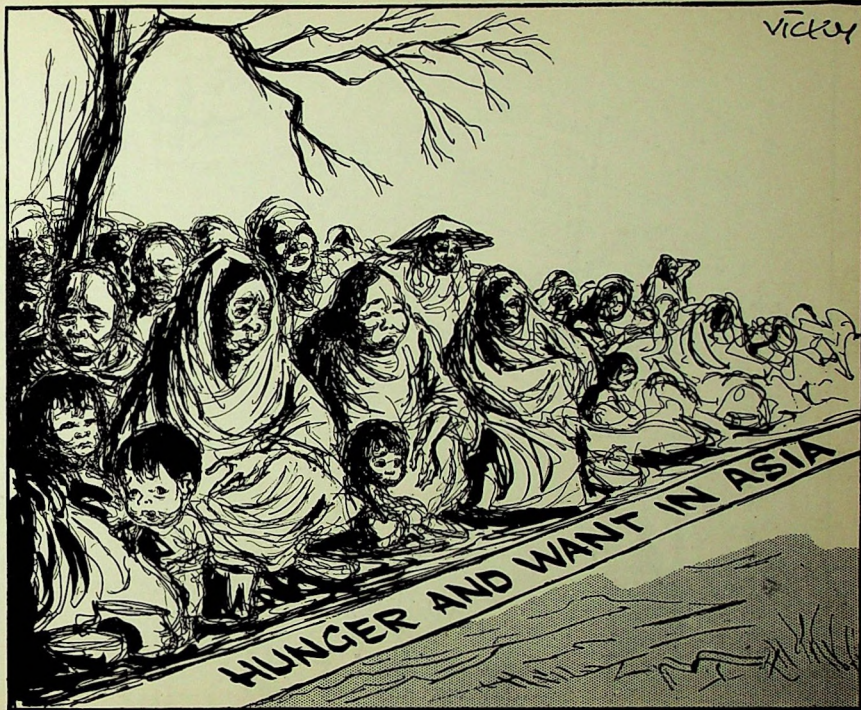
CANUTE AT MARGATE A.D. 1950

3rd October, 1950. The
Labour Party Conference
discusses topic No. 1.

VICKY

ANOTHER PARALLEL TO CROSS

11th October, 1950. General MacArthur crosses the 38th Parallel in Korea.



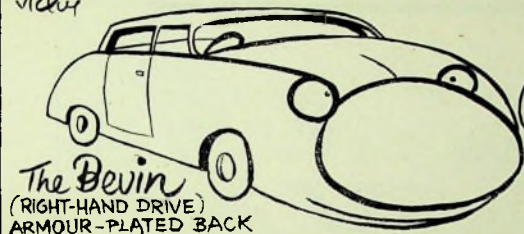
VICKY



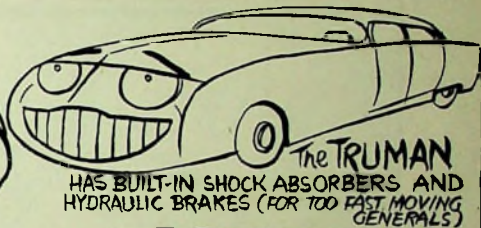
**IS ANOTHER
WORLD WATCH-
ING US?**

17th October, 1950. Reports
of "Flying Saucers" in-
crease.

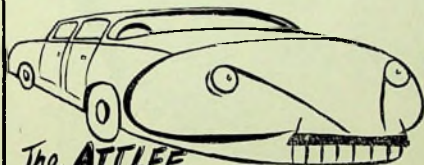
VICKY



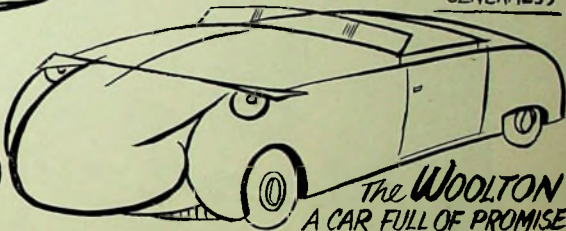
The Bevin
(RIGHT-HAND DRIVE)
ARMOUR-PLATED BACK



The TRUMAN
HAS BUILT-IN SHOCK ABSORBERS AND
HYDRAULIC BRAKES (FOR TOO FAST MOVING
GENERALS)



The ATTLEE
INTEGRAL STEEL BODY CONSTRUCTION
PERFECT MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROADSTER



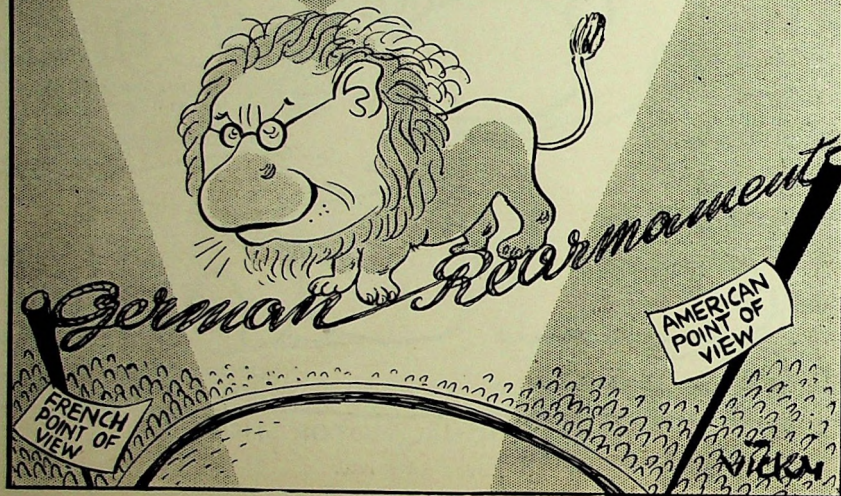
The WOOLTON
A CAR FULL OF PROMISE
(300,000 CAN BE BUILT IN ONE YEAR)
NO STEERING WHEEL, NO CONTROLS!

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW

24th October, 1950.

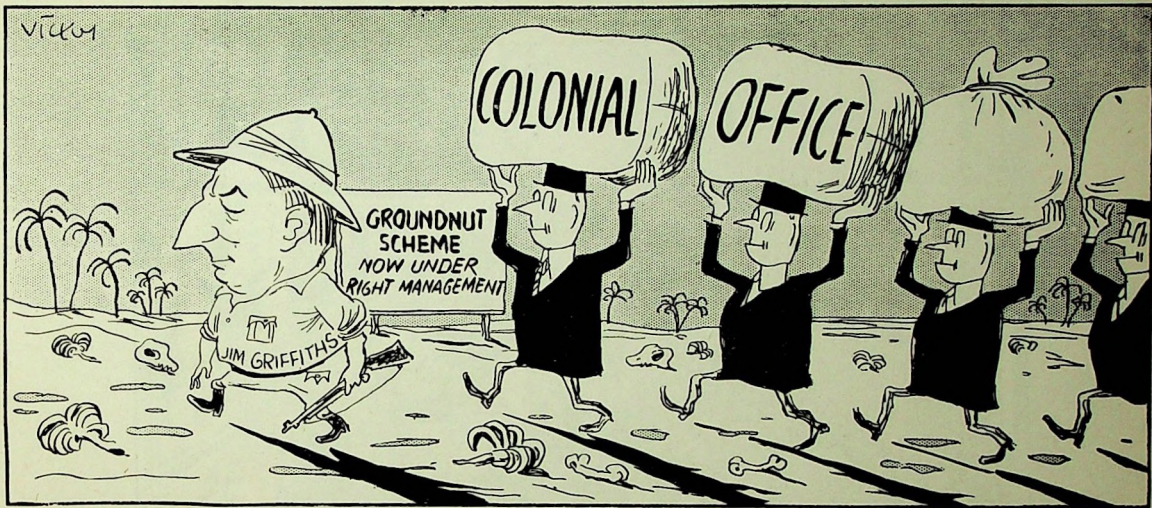
ERNIE THE BALANCING LION

SENSATIONAL ACT NEVER SEEN BEFORE



THE CIRCUS OPENS TODAY

19th December, 1950. Mr. Bevin is trying to reconcile France and America on German Re-armament.



NEW MEN AGAINST THE DESERT

11th January, 1951. The much criticised Ground Nut Scheme is taken over by The Colonial Office from the Ministry of Food.

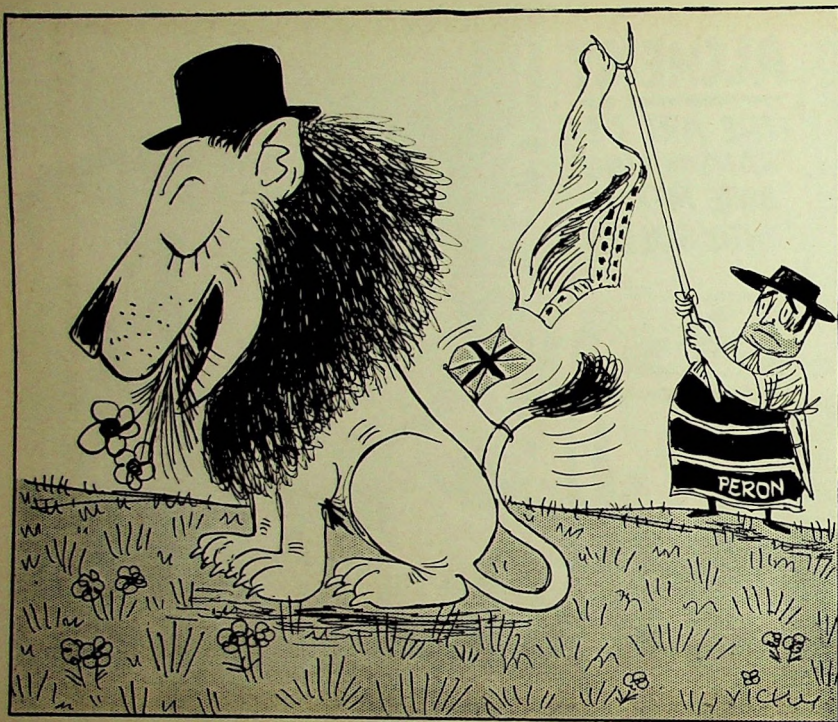


HARLEY STREET, JANUARY 18th, 1951.
Mr. Bevan leaves the Ministry of Health to become Minister of Labour.

"Poor Old Strauss,
still can't turn Gold
into Tin"

24th January, 1951. Gold
reserves are up but a new
shortage, that of tin, copper,
nickel etc. appears.



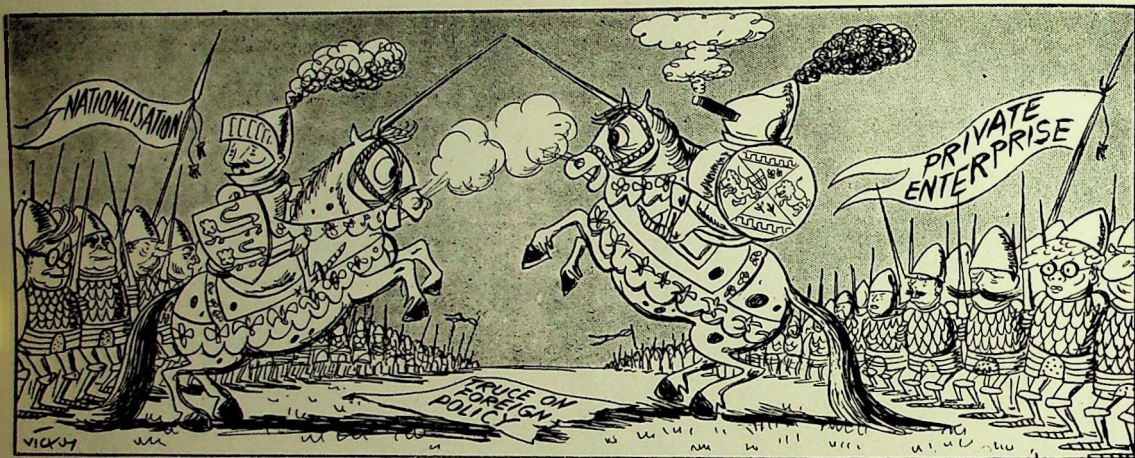


**NO GOOD
TEMPTING HIM,
HE'S TURNED VEG-
ETARIAN "**

26th January, 1951. The
Meat Ration is cut once
more.



30th January, 1951. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated three years ago today.



**“And then give them great meals of beef, and iron and steel,
they will eat like wolves, and fight like devils”**

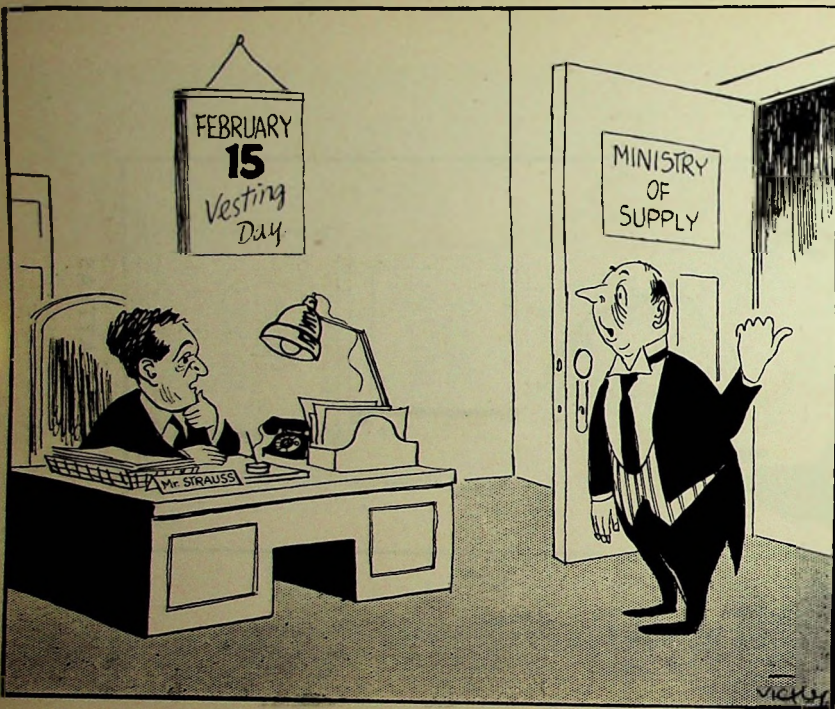
—KING HENRY V, ACT III, SCENE VII.

7th February, 1951. Steel clash in Parliament.



CLEM ATLAS

13th February, 1951. Mr. Bevin's illness adds to the burden of the Prime Minister.



**"A Herr Krupp's
asking if there's a
vacancy on the Steel
Board, Sir"**

*15th February, 1951. Steel
vesting day coincides with
the release of German Steel
magnate Krupp.*

**VITAMIN B1 ALSO
KNOWN AS ANEURIN.**

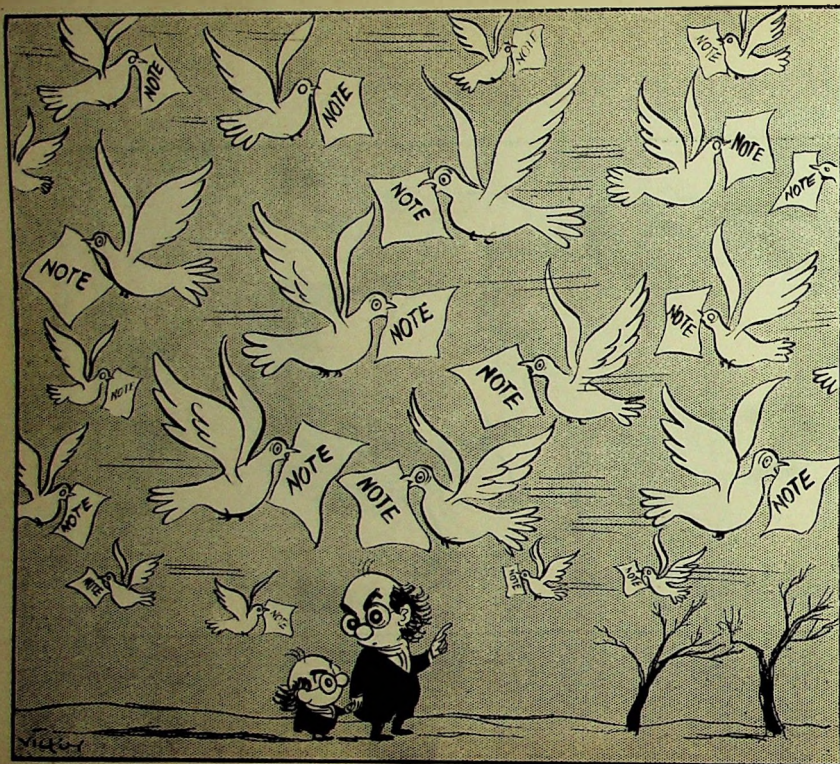
ITS DEFICIENCY MAY RESULT
IN NEURITIS WITH MUSCULAR
WEAKNESS, BUT A SMALL
DOSE OF IT CURES THE
SYMPTOMS.

- MEDICAL DICTIONARY



STRENGTH THROUGH NYE

19th February, 1951. Even Mr. Churchill praises Mr. Bevan's speech
in the defence debate.



**"DOVES ? NO
DEAR, ONLY CAR-
RIER PIGEONS . . ."**

27th February, 1951. East
and West exchanging notes
on a proposed meeting of the
"Big Four."

VICKY
WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT
TO PERSIL



**IN DARKEST AFRICA
MALAN WASHES WHITER**

28th February, 1951. South Africa's policy of "Apartheid" —
Racial segregation — causes indignation.



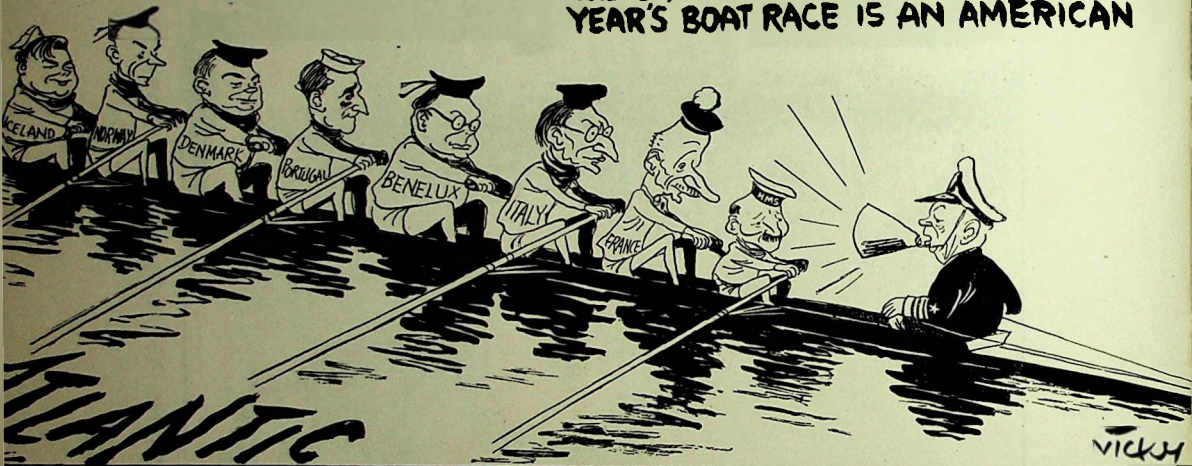
5th March, 1951. Rumours of Mr. Bevin's resignation as Foreign Secretary and on his successor increase.



PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

10th March, 1951. Mr. Bevin resigns.

THE COX OF THE OXFORD CREW FOR THIS
YEAR'S BOAT RACE IS AN AMERICAN



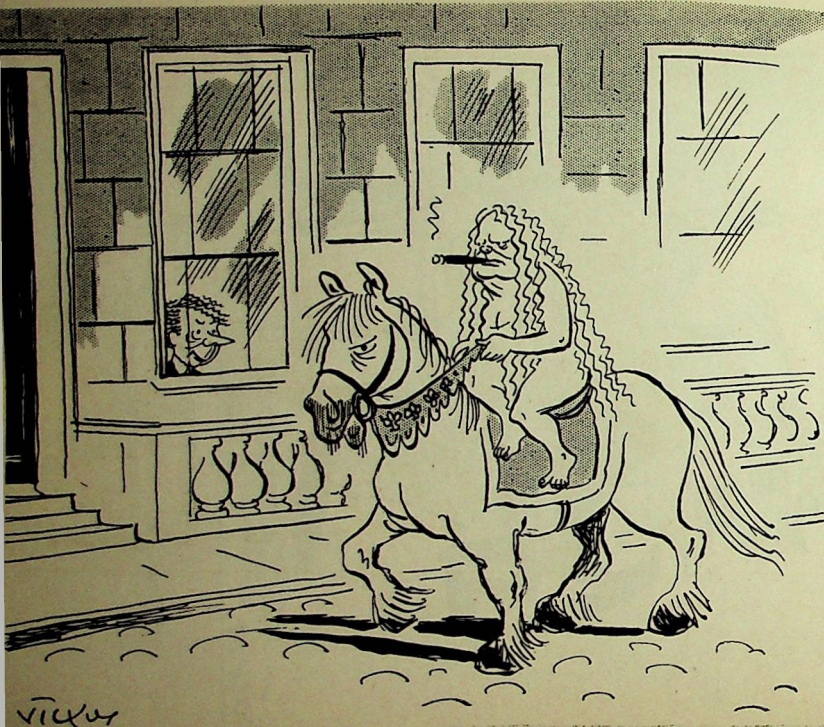
GETTING INTO S.H.A.P.E.

12th March, 1951. Proposed appointment of an American Admiral for the North Atlantic Command causes storms of protests.



CHARLIE MACARTHUR

29th March, 1951. General MacArthur's political pronouncements and actions threaten to spread the war in the Far East.

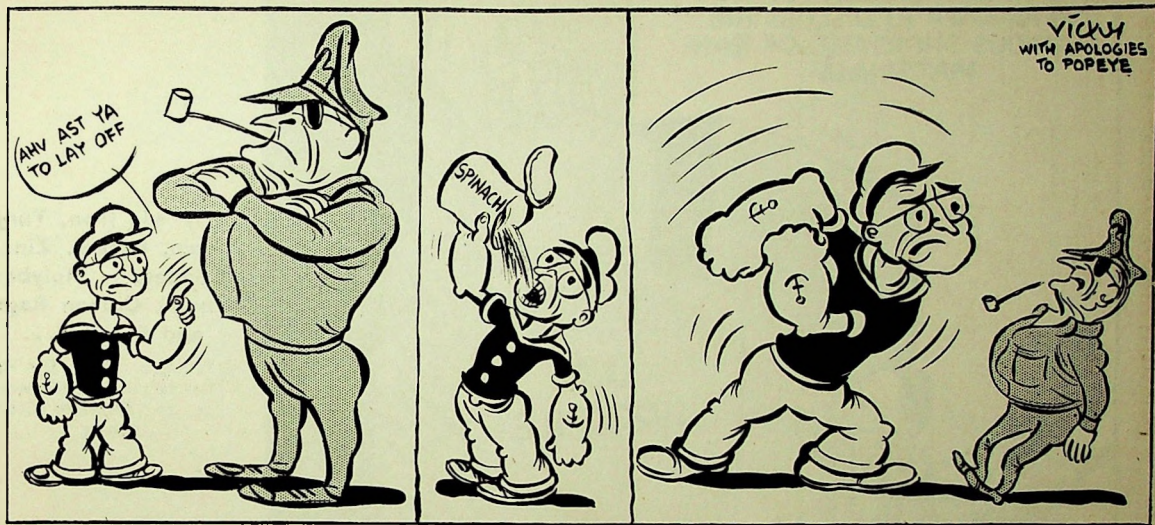


LADY GODIVA — 1951 ?

"She was chosen for her dignity, poise, restraint, good appearance, maturity, and ability to portray the determination of a woman ready to save her people from taxes."

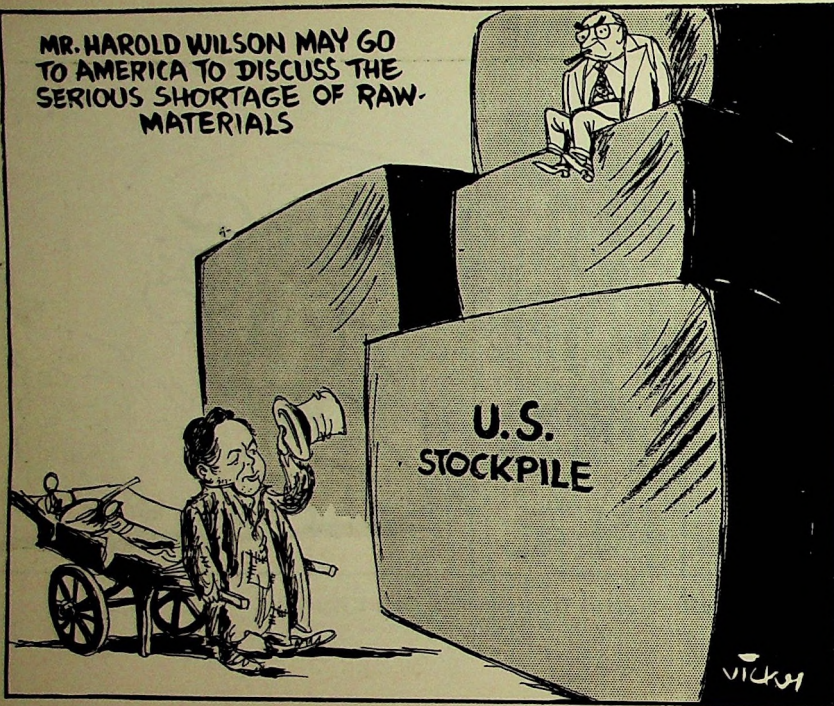
PAGEANT MASTER
LEONARD TURNER

10th April, 1951. Budget Day.



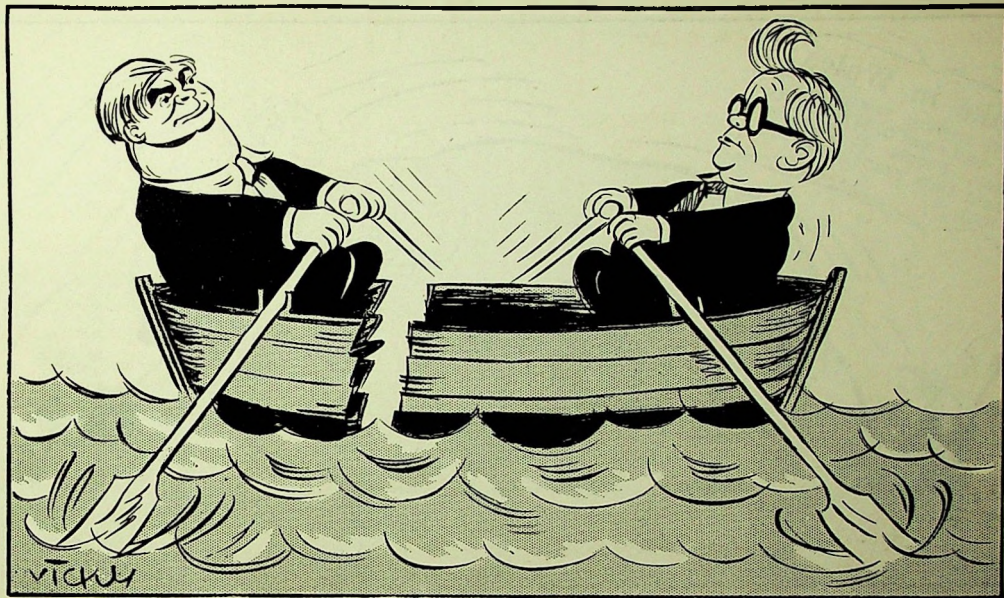
12th April, 1951. President Truman dismisses General MacArthur.

MR. HAROLD WILSON MAY GO
TO AMERICA TO DISCUSS THE
SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF RAW-
MATERIALS

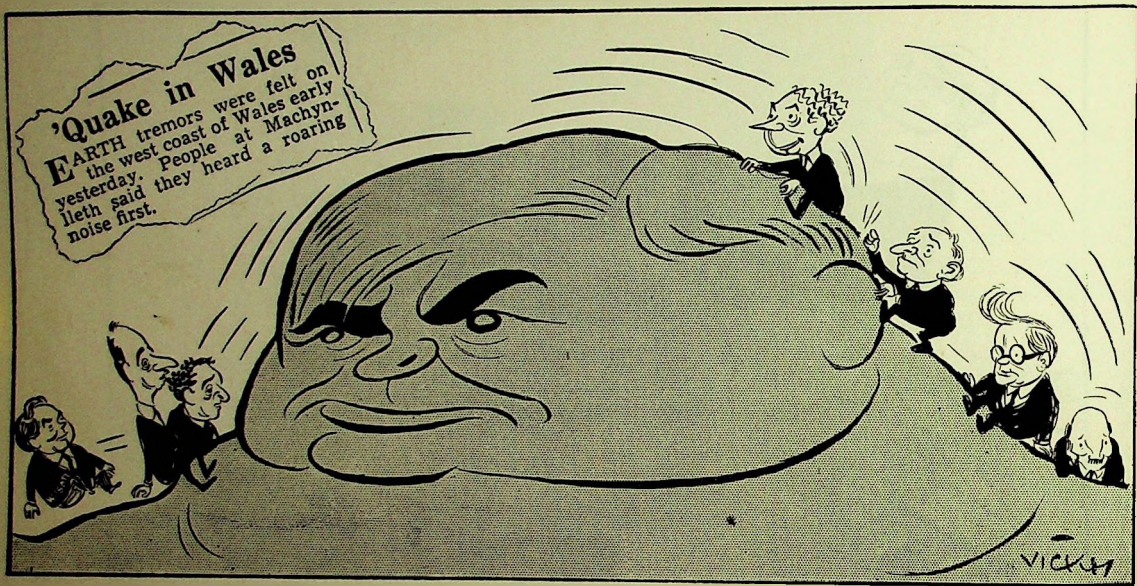


Any 'ole Iron, Tung-
sten, Nickel, Zinc,
Copper, Molybde-
num, Cotton Rags
and Sulphur . . . ?

19th April, 1951. The Raw
Material shortage gets worse
due to American Stock-
piling.



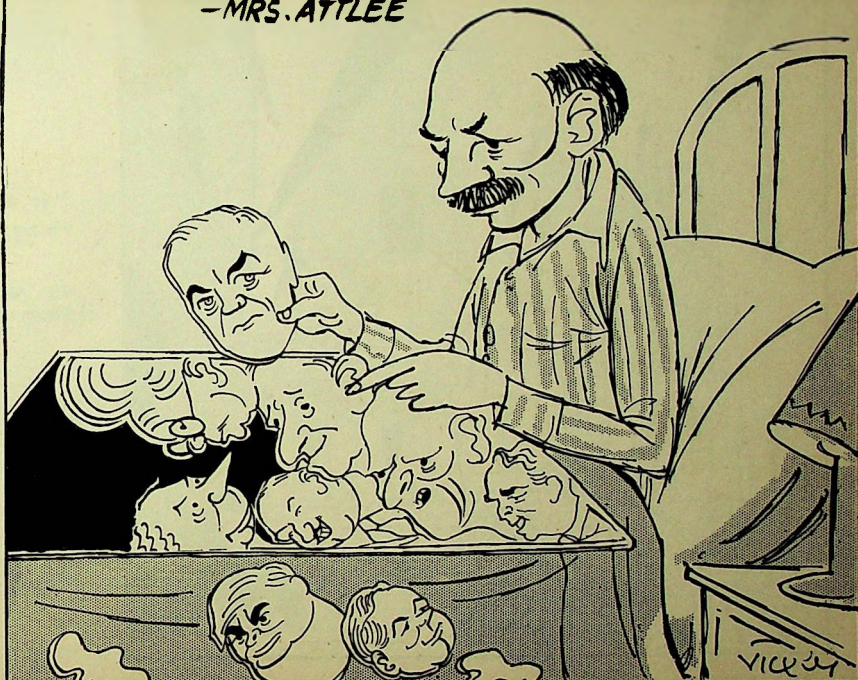
- 23rd April, 1951. Mr. Bevan resigns from the Labour Government.



24th April, 1951. Repercussions of Mr. Bevan's resignation in the Labour Party.

"WHILE IN HOSPITAL, MR. ATTLEE
SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH
JIG-SAW PUZZLES"
-MRS. ATTLEE

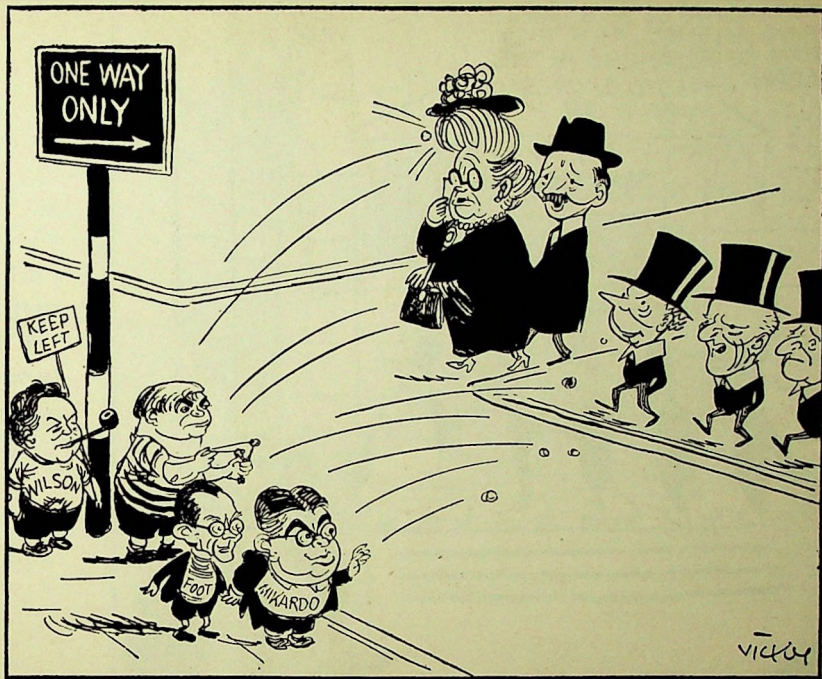
27th April, 1951. Mr. Attlee
reconstructs his government
while in hospital.





"It all reminds me of something, but that was before your time, dear..."

9th May, 1951. Election in Lower Saxony shows growth of the Neo-Nazi "Socialist Reichs Party."



"SOCIALISTS!"

25th July, 1951. "Bevanite" M.P.'s issue their "one way only" pamphlet.

"WHEN I WENT THERE I WAS RECEIVED
BY THE CITY MAGNATES WITH FRIGID
AND FLAPPING SILENCE, AS IF THEY
WERE A ROW OF PENGUINS IN THE
ARCTIC OCEAN" —LLOYD GEORGE

FEB. 12, 1931.



THE BIG FREEZE — 20 YEARS AFTER

1st August, 1951. Mr. Gaitskell's proposal to freeze Dividends gets cool reception in certain circles.

"Even if you don't understand it, Dear, you can see through it"

22nd August, 1951. Mr. David Eccles M.P. visualizes a "new conservatism" a party for all classes.

EXHIBITION OF "MODERN TORYISM"

BY DAVID ECCLES, M.P.

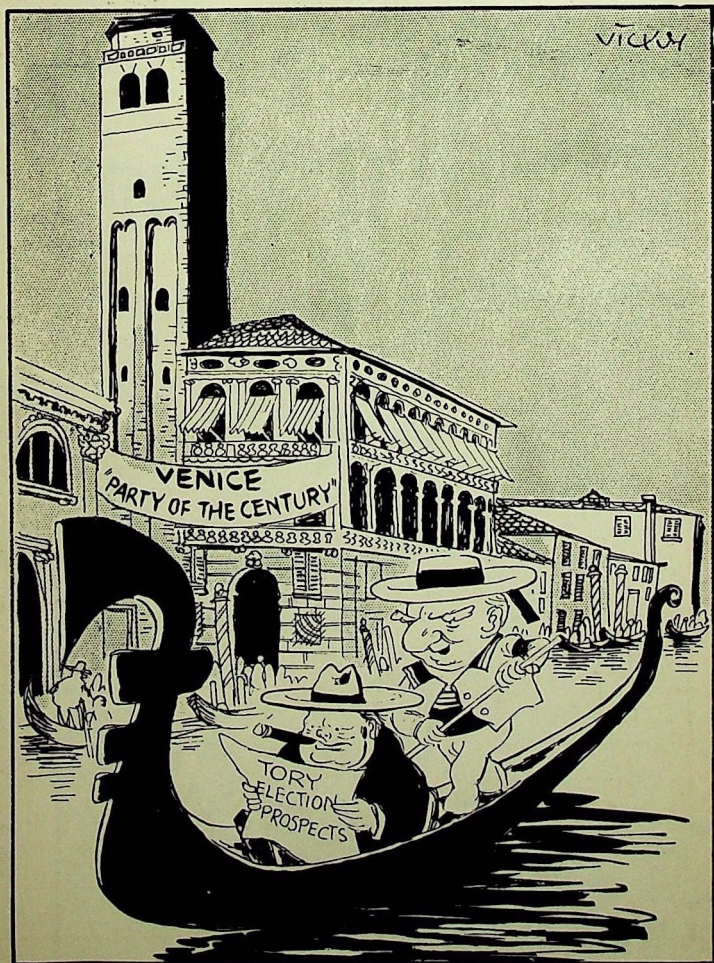


NEW IMAGE OF TORY SOCIETY
WITHOUT WEALTH OR PRIVILEGE



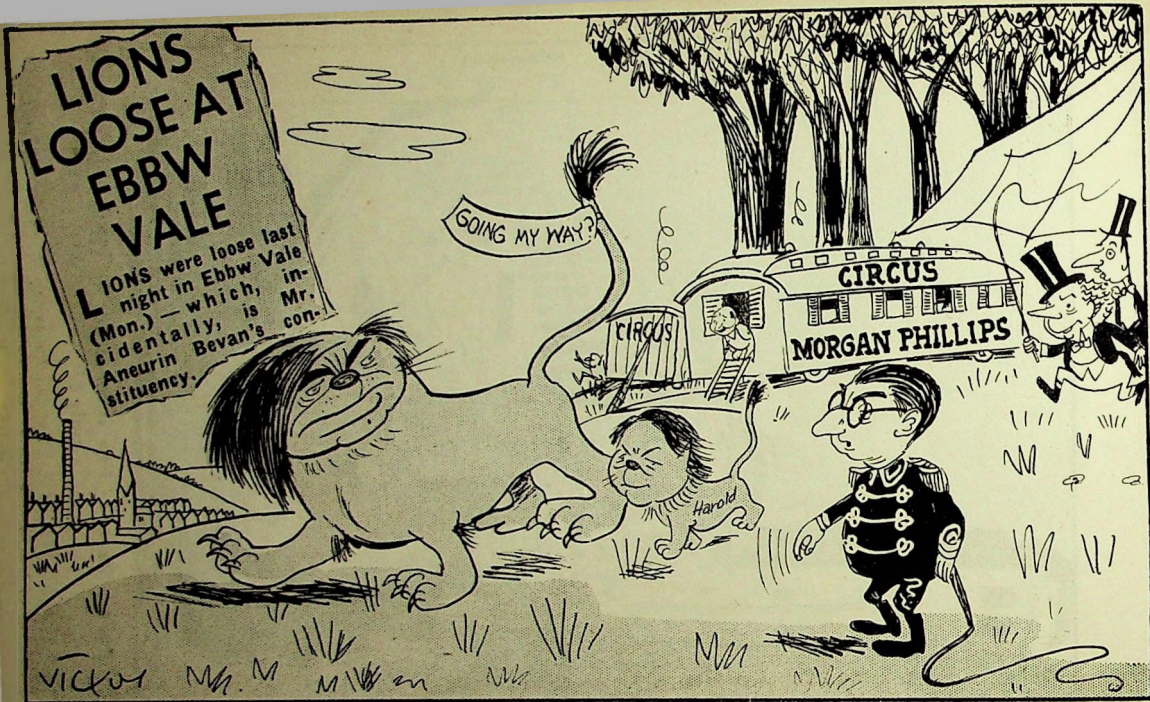


31st August, 1951. The Chancellor tries vainly to stop the cost of living from rising.



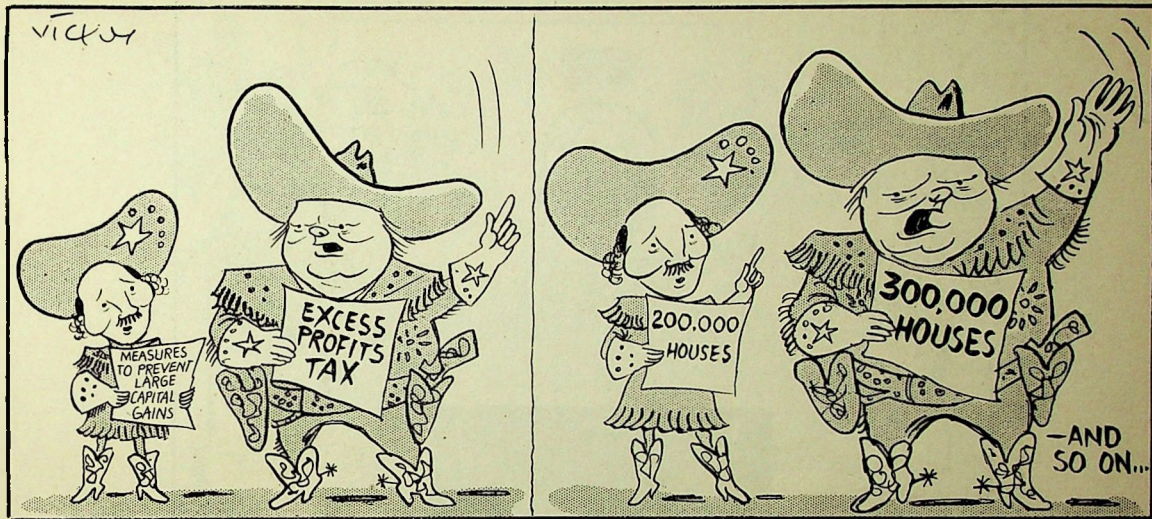
"Party, Party? I'm interested in ONE Party only!"

5th September, 1951. Mr. Churchill holidaying in Venice refuses invitation to the Party given by Spanish Millionaire Don Carlos de Bestigui Iturbide.



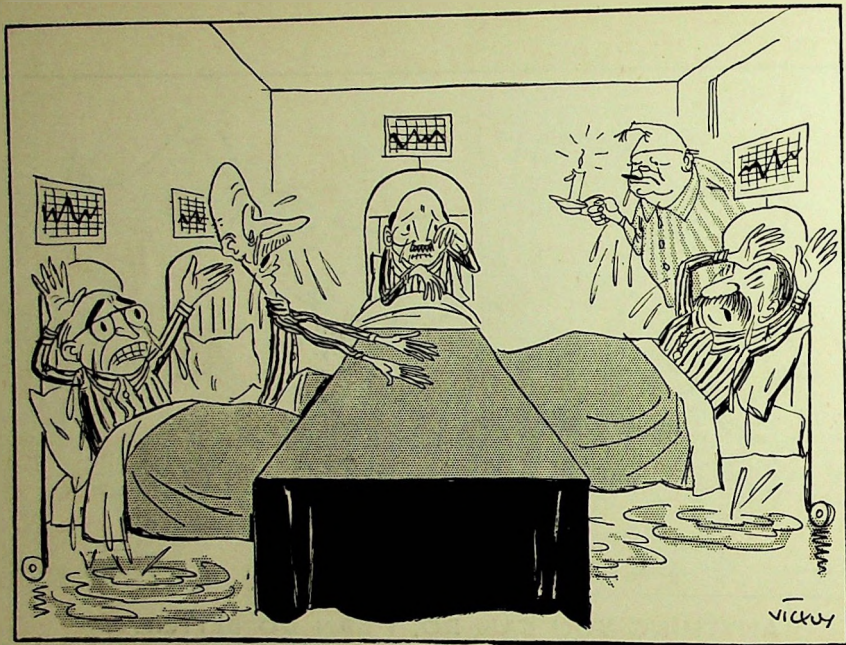
“PUSSY, PUSSY — TO HEEL!”

20th September, 1951. The Labour Party closes its ranks for the coming Election.



"ANYTHING YOU CAN DO, I CAN DO BETTER..."

2nd October, 1951. Tory Promises outdo the Labour Programme.



**THE SUCCESS OF THE MOSSADIQ TECHNIQUE MAY
INFLUENCE WORLD DIPLOMACY**

8th October, 1951. Persian Prime Minister Dr. Mossadig goes to New York to plead his case at the U.N.

VICKY'S GUEST ARTIST, STUNT THE TORY CARTOONIST, TELLS A TALE :
ONCE UPON A TIME ...



...ON OCTOBER 26, 1951,
 TO BE EXACT ...



...OUR HENS
 STARTED TO LAY
 AS NEVER BEFORE...



... OUR COWS
 GREW FATTER
 AND FATTER ...



... THERE WERE
 JUICY STEAKS FOR
 EVERYONE ...



... NEW HOUSES
 SPANG OUT OF
 NOWHERE ...



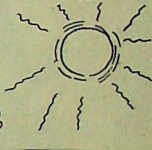
... THERE WAS A HUGE
 SURPLUS OF COAL ...



... ALL TAX-COLLECTORS
 WERE LOOKING FOR OTHER JOBS...



... RARE RAW MATERIALS
 GREW ON BRITISH SOIL ...



... THE SUN NEVER
 STOPPED SHINING...



...NOBODY KNEW
 OF A FINANCIAL
 CRISIS ...



... OUR CRICKETERS
 BROUGHT HOME
 THE ASHES ...



... A REMARKABLE
 CHANGE TOOK PLACE
 IN EGYPT AND PERSIA...

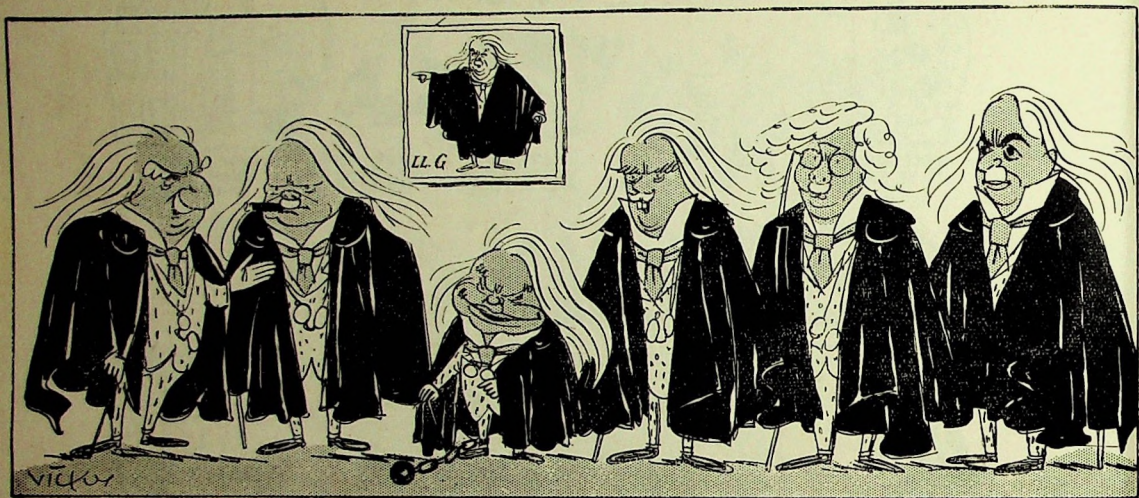


...AND THE PEOPLE
 LIVED HAPPILY
 EVER AFTER...



...JUST BECAUSE THEY
 THREW OUT THOSE
 WICKED SOCIALISTS!

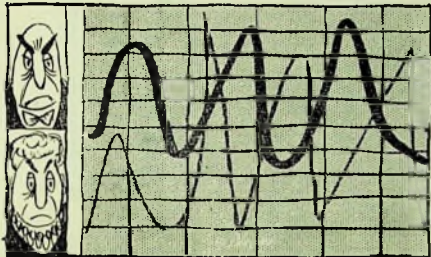
23rd October, 1951. Some of the more irresponsible Tory Politicians promise paradise if they are returned to power.



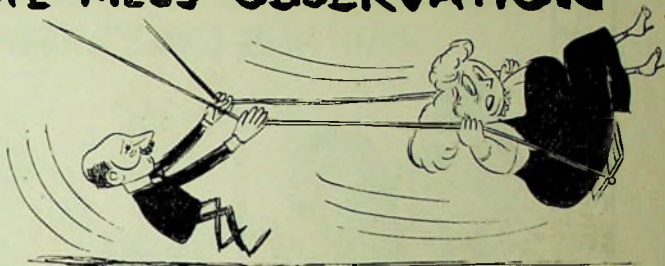
**ANYONE CAN SEE THAT THE CLOAK OF LIBERALISM
HAS FALLEN ON US**

24th October, 1951. Tories woo Liberal Voters.

VICKY'S LAST-MINUTE MESS OBSERVATION



AFTER EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF PEOPLE,
WE FIND THAT ONE SECTION IS STILL CROSS!



FURTHER INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT THE
SWING TO THE RIGHT HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

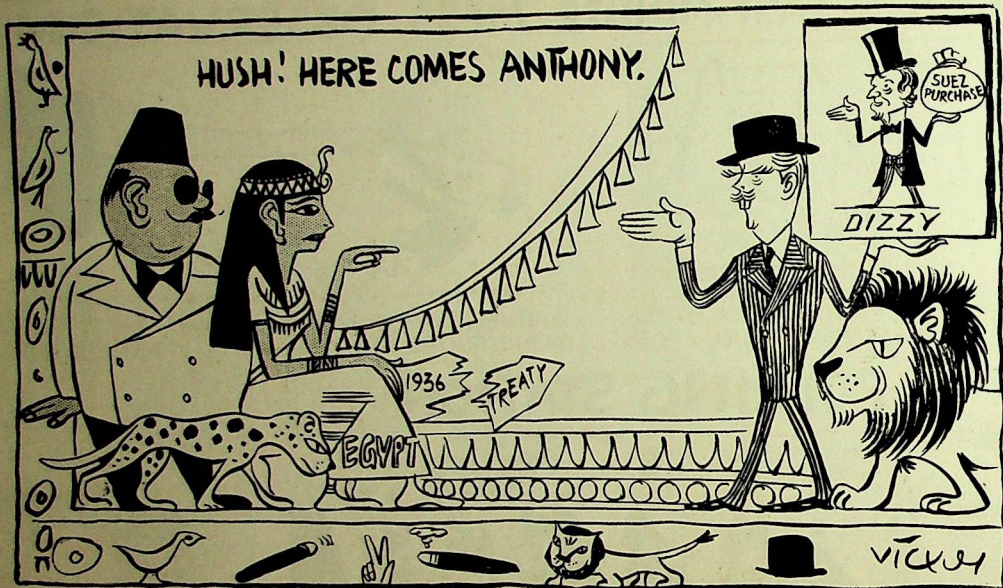
POLLING STATION



THE ONE IN TEN WHO STILL DOESN'T KNOW



... BUT SOME OPINION
HAS HARDENED.



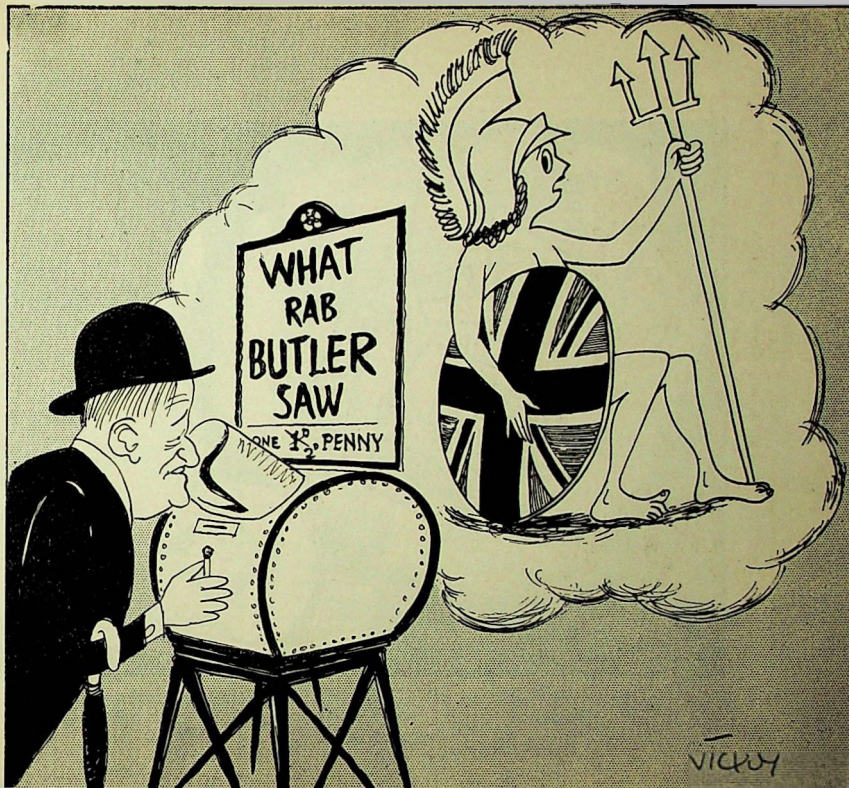
ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA —

(ACT I, SCENE II)

29th October, 1951. Mr. Eden becomes Foreign Secretary as relations with Egypt are strained.

THE NAKED TRUTH

1st November, 1951. The new
Chancellor of the Exchequer
reviews the economic
position.





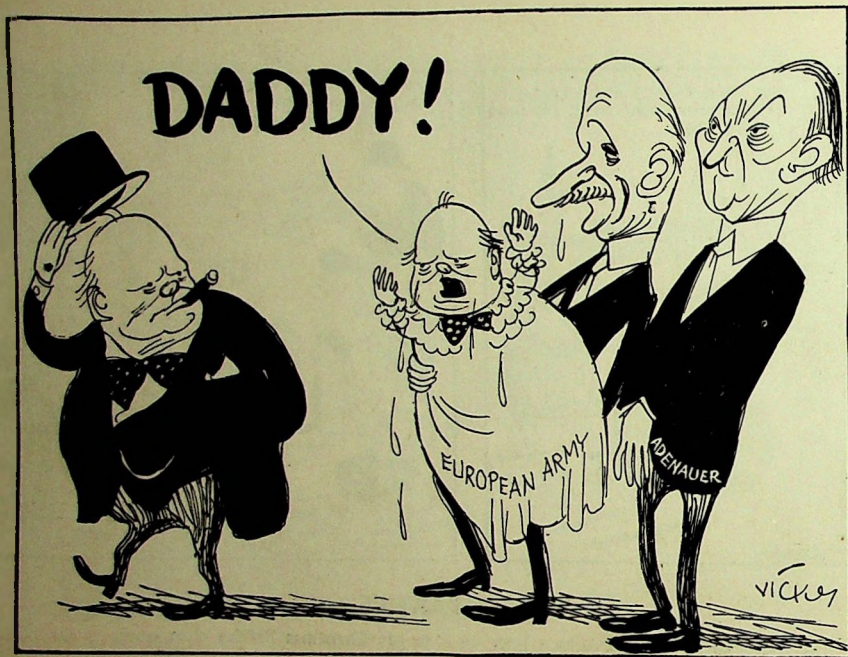
“... 299,998, 299,999 ...”

9th November, 1951. It has fallen on Mr. Harold MacMillan to fulfil the Tory promise to build 300,000 houses a year.



SEARCH PARTIES

15th November, 1951. Parliament goes on a longer Christmas holiday than usual.



11th December, 1951. Mr. Churchill dismays the French when disowning his own child.



FLORENCE IN WONDERLAND

"That's the reason they're called lessons," the gryphon remarked: "Because they lessen from day to day."

ALICE IN WONDERLAND, Chapter IX

22nd December, 1951. Government announces cuts in Education.

**THE CUT IN STEEL MAY REVOLUTIONISE
BRITISH CYCLE DESIGNS.**

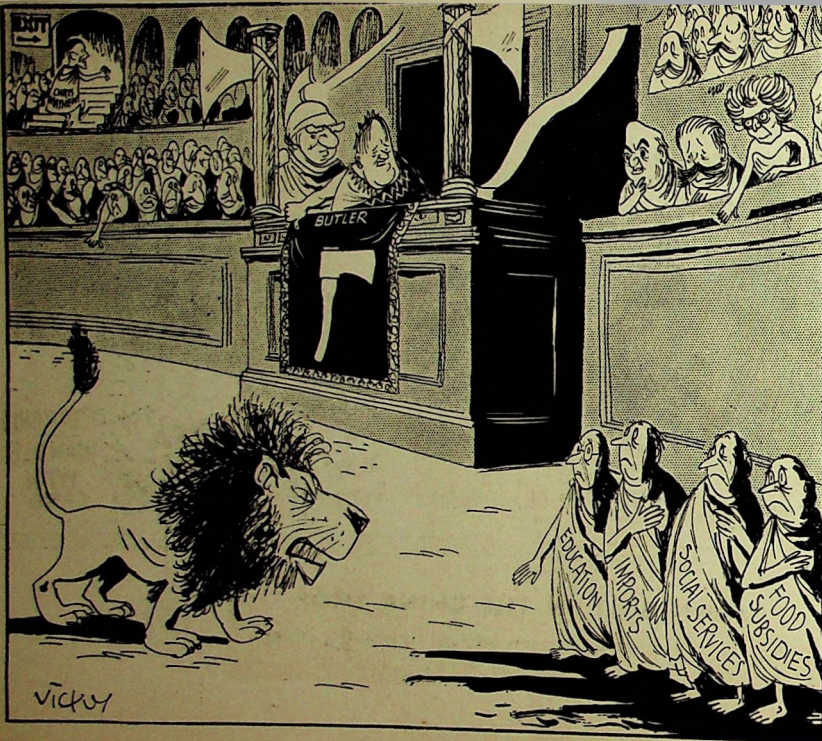


4th January, 1952. The Minister of Supply, Mr. Duncan Sandys cuts steel supply for the home market.



JOHN BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP

23rd January, 1952. Mr. Churchill discusses the Far East with Mr. Truman.



QUO VADIS?

28th January, 1952. New cuts by the Chancellor are forecast.



THE SMILE

—By Leonardo da Vicky.

7th March, 1952. Mr. Bevan leads the revolt of 57 Labour M.P.'s on re-armament and emerges as Britain's most vivid, picturesque and unpredictable politician.



FURTHER ACT OF SACRIFICE